

Generals freed in Ethiopia

NAIROBI (R) — Three Ethiopian generals arrested after last week's coup attempt have been freed, according to Addis Ababa radio. The radio, reported here, said: "Of those put under control in relation to the recent coup, three generals have been released. The government has decided they were free from blame." The three were named as Brigadier-General Girma Fida, general manager of development and depots in the Defence Ministry, Brigadier-General Habte Mikael Biru, deputy minister-general in the Defence Ministry, and Brigadier-General Adnan Gebre Haim, deputy head of the organisational department in the Defence Ministry. It was the first announcement naming any of the soldiers detained after the abortive coup. The number of detainees has not been announced but diplomats in Addis Ababa said the total could be several hundred. The Ethiopian capital was reported quiet Sunday after more than 500,000 flag-waving and cheering Ethiopians crowded the centre of the city Saturday to demonstrate their support for President Mengistu Haile Mariam and his government.

Jordan Times

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Syrian president in Libya

NICOSIA (R) — Syrian President Hafiz Al Assad arrived in Tripoli Sunday and was welcomed by Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported. The agency report, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, gave no details of the purpose of Assad's visit. But several Arab leaders have been trying to persuade Qaddafi to attend the emergency Arab League summit which will open in Casablanca, Morocco, Tuesday and formalise Egypt's return to the Arab fold. Syria and Libya, along with Lebanon, are the only Arab countries which have not restored ties with Cairo, ostracised by most of the Arab World after it made peace with Israel in 1979. Qaddafi has campaigned against convening the summit, described by JANA in previous reports as unnecessary and unjustified. Syria, which has recently started praising Egypt's policies, has said that Assad will attend the summit and will not object to the presence of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

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Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday confers with Chinese Minister of Culture Wang Meng in a meeting attended by Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Majali (Petra photo)

Sharif Zaid, Majali meet Chinese minister on ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday reaffirmed Jordan's interest in promoting bilateral relations between Jordan and the Peoples Republic of China in all the fields, particularly in culture. Sharif Zaid was speaking at a meeting with Chinese Minister of Culture Wang Meng, who arrived in Amman earlier Sunday on a five-day visit to Jordan, as part of a tour which will take him to a number of Arab countries. Meng was also received by Culture and Information Minister Nasouh Al Majali, who discussed with him means of strengthening cultural relations. Majali also reviewed with the Chinese guest the cultural programme of cooperation already concluded with China and called for additional proposals capable of broadening scopes of cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Egypt formally takes its seat; Lebanon representation thorny Arab foreign ministers meet

Qasem: Efforts for peace conference to figure high

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

CASABLANCA — The question of who will represent Lebanon at the extraordinary Arab summit opening here Tuesday was the main focus of deliberations by Arab League foreign ministers who were discussing preparations for the summit and how to deal with the situation in strife-torn Lebanon.

The highlight of the meetings came when Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid took Egypt's chair at the foreign ministers' meeting, signalling an end to the formal Arab League boycott of Cairo after its 1979 separate peace treaty with Israel. A meeting was held earlier by the six-member Arab League committee on Lebanon chaired by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. According to sources quoted by the Associate Press, the committee ended 3½ hours of debate without reaching agreement on a report it was expected to submit to the heads of states Tuesday. According to sources quoted by Reuters, the problem of representation of Lebanon dominated the meeting and no decision was reached. Since late last year, Lebanon has two governments vying with each other for power and a divided army. A shaky ceasefire, mediated by the Arab League panel, has put an end to eight-weeks of bloody clashes, in place since last week.

The panel was to meet again late Sunday after the ceremonial meeting for the full council of Arab League foreign ministers to prepare for the summit. Jordan is represented at the meeting by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

In an arrival statement, Qasem stressed the importance of the Arab summit at the current stage and said that Jordan attaches great importance on the conference and hopes that it would come up with resolutions capable of ensuring further Arab coordination and cooperation.

Qasem said the summit would discuss the Palestine question and efforts made to ensure the Palestinian rights through an international peace conference to be attended by all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

The summit will also discuss the Lebanese question and the contribution Arabs should make to achieve a solution that guarantees Lebanon's unity and sovereignty. The gathering will also discuss the best means for changing the current ceasefire between Iraq and Iran into a lasting peace based on non-interference in internal affairs of each country and on good neighbourhood relations, Qasem said.

At the full meeting of the league council, Abdul Meguid took his seat at the conference table behind an Egyptian flag signalling the historic return to the fold of the Arab World's most populous country.

Two seats around the table were empty, those of Libya and Lebanon.

Libya has no diplomatic relations with Egypt and launched a diplomatic campaign against the summit, describing it as unnecessary, but Syria had already toned down its objections and promised

to attend despite Cairo's presence.

The league's intervention in Lebanon, loosely mirroring a similar but unsuccessful operation 10 years ago, is the latest in a series of abortive peace attempts by Lebanon's neighbours, the United Nations and western powers such as the United States and France.

The Arab League has not previously tried to decide who should represent one of its members at any summit, a question usually left to a country's government.

With the two rival heads of government apparently excluded because neither is recognised by a majority of Arab states, there are two main candidates to head the Lebanese delegation.

Suleiman Farah, Lebanon's ambassador to Tunisia and the Arab League, has represented his country at recent meetings at league headquarters in Tunis but he is a Christian.

13 detainees released

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government Sunday freed 13 people, mostly university students, detained during the riots that hit several towns in the Kingdom's south as well as Salt near the capital last month, informed sources told the Jordan Times.

The sources, who requested anonymity, said the release came in line with instructions issued by His Majesty King Hussein earlier this month. The sources added that 55 other detainees were released following the directive, which was announced during a meeting with a delegation from Salt. In remarks carried Sunday by the Arabic daily, Sawt Al Shaab, the director-general of the Public Security Department, Abdul Hadi Majali, said all those held during the riots, in which eight people were killed and about 90 others were wounded, were freed. The casualties included security personnel. Majali told Sawt Al Shaab security forces had opened fire in the air to disperse rioters who attacked government property in the southern towns of Maan, Karak and Tafila. He noted that the number of security men injured in the incidents were almost three times of that of civilian casualties. "All those involved in the regrettable incidents have been released," Majali told the newspaper.



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday meets with the diplomatic community in Jordan

Prime minister meets Arab, foreign envoys

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday received Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to the Royal Court and Dean of the Diplomatic Corp in Jordan Ali Abdullah Lahhoum, the Yemeni ambassador to Jordan, who conveyed the diplomatic corps' congratulations to Sharif Zaid on his appointment as prime minister and pledged full cooperation with the government.

Palestinians stage strike dedicated to prisoners

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army eased its curfew in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday but most Palestinians, banned from Israel for six days, stayed home on a strike dedicated to Israeli-held prisoners, Arab and Israeli witnesses said.

A few dozen Palestinian motorists, out of the Gaza Strip's 670,000 residents, headed for jobs in Israel but were stoned by activists trying to enforce the strike, witnesses told Reuters.

The West Bank also observed the strike called by leaders of the uprising.

In the Gaza Strip, grocers opened stores for one hour to allow residents to buy food.

Palestinians were barred last week from the towns of Ashdod and Ashkelon near the strip after the burial of an Israeli soldier, whose body was found in a shallow grave. He had been shot dead.

The army is still looking for another Israeli soldier who went missing this month, apparently kidnapped.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last week the unprecedented measures in Gaza would show Palestinians that an Israeli government-approved election initiative was their only alternative to harsher army measures.

Rabin announced last week Palestinians from the occupied territories would soon have to carry individual permits allowing entry into Israel.

Jewish settlers said they were taking seriously a call by the leadership of the Palestinian 17-month-old uprising in the occupied territories for tit-for-tat killings of settlers or soldiers.

The Israeli army refused to comment on leaflets distributed by the uprising's leadership rejecting the election plan and calling for an escalation of the revolt in which 493 Palestinians have been killed.

The leaflet, the 40th in a series signed by the Unified Leadership of the Uprising, urged Palestinians to kill a soldier or a Jewish settler for every Arab killed in clashes with Israelis, starting from Monday.

The army would not say if it was stepping up measures in light of the threat.

But an official representing many of the 70,000 settlers in the occupied territories said the threat could not be dismissed as rhetoric.

"They have proved that this intifada is serious business, not a kids' game. People are wounded and killed, both on our side and on theirs and it's certainly very serious," West Bank settlement official Dov Kenaan said.

Sunday's general strike was called

in solidarity with 6,300 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Violent protests erupted in Beit Lahiya in the West Bank, where two youths were wounded. One of them, Ramzi Aasi, 13, was in critical condition at Jerusalem's Muqassed hospital, reports said.

In Gaza, 10 Palestinians were wounded including a 17-year-old suffered a gunshot wound in the leg during a clash in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan quarter.

Palestinian leaders Nayef Hawatmeh has said guerrilla attacks against Israel are a sacred right and has vowed to launch more.

"We have recently launched a series of attacks against Israel and we will launch more. Such attacks are a sacred right for our people," Hawatmeh, leader of Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), told a meeting in Abu Dhabi Saturday night.

"We tell America these attacks are not terrorism. We are defending our people in camps in Lebanon and supporting them in the intifada," Hawatmeh said.

Another Palestinian leader, Salah Khalaf, Saturday told the AP that an incident Friday in which firearms were used by the Palestinians on the West Bank was a limited "act of self defence."

Peking students defy ultimatum

PEKING (Agencies) — Students occupying Tiananmen Square in violation of martial law Sunday rejected an ultimatum they said the government gave them to leave the square by dawn Monday or face a military attack.

But Peking Radio denied the account by student loud speakers on Tiananmen Square. The students claimed Premier Li Peng had threatened the use of force to clear the central square and told Peking jails to prepare for large number of detainees.

Meanwhile, soldiers sealed off Peking with roadblocks and about 1,500 troops armed with automatic weapons moved into the train station, apparently to stop tens of thousands of people flocking to the capital to join the protests.

Ordinary citizens, who have been supporting the students, blocked the station by parking coal trucks across the road and hundreds of students sat in front of it forming a human barrier.

Officials of the major state-run media — People's Daily, Xinhua News Agency, the central radio station and the central television station — also were occupied by troops, a People's Daily reporter

said. Only the English-language China Daily's weekly business edition was delivered Sunday. Soldiers will be sent to major universities, which have been the centre of the month-long protests for democratic change, to "keep order," Peking Television reported.

Li called in the 27th and 28th armies Friday night and declared martial law in central Peking Saturday. By Sunday, however, his inability to enforce martial law indicated an intense political struggle was going on behind the scenes and put into doubt his army's willingness to follow Li's orders.

The status of relatively liberal Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, said by Chinese sources to have resigned in protest, remained unclear. There was no official statement.

The exact number of troops called into the capital was not immediately known.

A Chinese source said 60,000 to 70,000 troops moved into the city centre by subway and followed connecting tunnels to the walled palace, the history museum and the Great Hall of the People, which sit on three



Thousands of people block Chinese troops from moving into central Peking

sides of Tiananmen Square. The subway was closed to regular traffic most of Saturday and all Sunday.

There was no outward sign of the reported troop presence around the square and it could not be confirmed.

Only about 100,000 students and supporters remained in the square, half the number earlier Sunday. The rest left the square, where protesters have camped for more than a week, apparently to confront troops in the suburbs. Hundreds of military trucks

were in Peking's suburbs, blocked by thousands of citizens and roadblocks they had built of trucks, buses, road dividers and anything else available.

The independent student union that has led the protests for a free press, an end to official corruption and other reforms, announced it received a message from Li saying the military would clear Tiananmen, the plaza that is the symbolic centre of China, by force by 5 a.m. Monday (2100 GMT Sunday).

In a broadcast over the student loudspeaker system in the square, they also claimed Li instructed Peking jails to be ready to accept a large number of students.

Chinese radio and television also quoted Nie Kongzhen, a 30-year-old former marshal of the People's Liberation Army, as denying rumours sweeping Peking that Li had ordered the square cleared.

Li announced martial law Saturday morning after a week of intensified democracy demonstrations that drew millions onto the streets of Peking.

Government sources in Bonn, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the obstacles to agreement centred on the elimination question and what prerequisites were placed on conventional force reductions before short-range talks could begin.

Baker said the U.S. counterproposal also envisioned postponing until 1992 a decision on deployment and production of missiles that have a greater range and are faster than the U.S.-produced Lance missiles.

Under the terms of the U.S. compromise plan, negotiations on NF weapons would be linked at some indefinite point to talks now under way in Vienna designed to reduce tanks, artillery and other non-nuclear forces.

Short-range nuclear talks would not be held until the Soviet-led alliance agreed to sizeable reductions in its conventional forces and the cuts actually began.

In return, the U.S. wants West Germany to relent in its demands for "speedy" negotiations and state firmly that it rejects the

Bonn cautiously welcomes U.S. offer on SNF

BONN (Agencies) — West Germany sees the latest U.S. offer on reducing short-range nuclear arms (SNF) as a basis for agreement before next week's North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit, government spokesman Hans Keln said Sunday.

But Chancellor Helmut Kohl will still discuss some points in a letter to President George Bush Monday and in a telephone call with him afterwards, Keln said.

He declined to give details of the U.S. proposal, which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said would leave a decision on

installing new SNF missiles — a controversial topic in West Germany where they would be stationed — until 1992.

Washington would accept Bonn's demand for East-West talks on reducing SNF missiles, but only after seeing progress in talks on cutting back conventional weapons, he added.

"I think this is already a basis (for a compromise). But the solution is not yet completed," Keln said of the proposal brought back from Washington by Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg.

"The West German government is doing everything to find a

solution by the summit," he said after Kohl met Stoltenberg and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to discuss the issue.

Keln said Kohl would telephone other NATO leaders, including British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, to discuss the compromise for NATO's 40th anniversary summit May 29-30.

Washington and London have been the strongest critics of Bonn's call for early talks with the Warsaw Pact on cutting back SNF missiles, which because of their range under 500 kilometres would destroy West and East Germany if fired.

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Shamir manoeuvres over plan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir threatened Sunday to resign if his Likud Party threw out his proposals for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir has also warned American leaders that his coalition government could fall apart if they pressure him to "concede more" to the Palestinians in his plan, an Israeli newspaper reported Sunday.

"I cannot continue in my job if I don't feel the movement I represent in the government supports me and stands beside me," Shamir told Israeli Radio before leaving on a six-day trip to Britain and Spain to promote his initiative.

Three Likud ministers, including Shamir's deputy, voted against his plan in cabinet last week and almost half of his party stayed away from a parliament vote endorsing it.

But Israel's left-right coalition government approved the plan by 20 votes to six and Shamir said he expected ultimately to win the support of his right-wing party.

Shamir's plan, which has won cautious support from the United States but has been dismissed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories.

Shamir's concerns for the future of his cabinet have been

sparked by threats from his rivals in Likud to join ranks and veto his peace plan when the party's central committee meets next month.

Far-right adversaries in Likud have complained the plan could be the first step towards creating a Palestinian state, but Shamir argued last week that the plan was the best weapon against such a development.

On Sunday, Shamir met one of his adversaries, Housing Minister David Levy, in an attempt to calm threats against the plan before his departure later Sunday.

Also opposing the peace plan is Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, a former general and defence minister, who has demanded that all moves be conditioned on a halt to the Palestinian uprising.

If Shamir resigns, his broad-based coalition with the Labour Party would automatically fall.

The Haaretz daily said Sunday that Shamir has conveyed these concerns in a message to Washington and that American leaders agreed to ease pressure on Israel to come up with answers to questions left unanswered by the plan.

Shamir's spokesman could not be reached for immediate comment on the report. He has repeatedly said he is not under pressure from the Americans, despite statements by U.S. officials that his plan does not provide enough details to satisfy the

Palestinians.

Political analysts were divided about whether the challenge to Shamir was serious.

Some warned that Sharon and a hawkish public mood could sway the party against Shamir's plan. Others said any challenge would fail amid fears that the rival Labour Party could gain power if Shamir steps down.

Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who will also be in Europe, are expected to hear concern about the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip when they meet leaders there later this week.

Shamir is due to meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and British officials in London and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and King Juan Carlos in Madrid.

His trip to Spain, the first by an Israeli prime minister, is officially to discuss bilateral affairs. But diplomatic sources in Madrid said talks were likely to focus on combined Spanish, French and Greek efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arens will meet foreign ministers from the 12 European Community (EC) governments in Brussels Monday and, according to diplomatic sources in Brussels, is likely to hear criticism of Israel's handling of the uprising and calls for a PLO role in peace talks.

Bhutto shrugs off Najibullah's threat

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Sunday shrugged off a threat from Afghan President Najibullah to fire rockets at Afghan guerrillas on Pakistani territory.

"We will take all measures to preempt any attacks on our territory," she told reporters after opening a seminar in Islamabad. "These threats are not a new thing. The situation is under observation and under control."

"The solution of the Afghan problem is not escalation or threats. It is coming to grips with reality and the resistance is a reality," she said.

Najibullah told a meeting Saturday his forces would fire long-range rockets at what he called guerrilla bases across the border if Pakistani troops intervened in the Afghan civil war.

The Soviet-backed government in Kabul has accused Pakistan almost daily since early February of armed intervention, saying often that Pakistani forces were actually fighting the rebel side near the border.

Pakistan dismisses the charges as propaganda designed to whip up nationalist support and denies any interference.

Pakistani officials and Western diplomats in Islamabad say that while Pakistani intelligence funnels weapons and cash to the rebels and provides military advice, the military has not got directly involved in the fighting.

Pakistan, which has some three million Afghan refugees living in camps in border areas, has supported the rebels since the Soviet intervention of 1979. It says Najibullah should hand over power to the rebels' "interim government."

Pakistani army chief General Mirza Aslam Beg spoke in favour of a political settlement last week saying the Afghan people had suffered enough during the 10-year-old war.

Najibullah has offered to negotiate with guerrilla commanders but only from a position of strength.

Attempts to bring Iranian-based guerrillas into the rebel government continued. A four-man delegation led by Mohammad Karim Khatibi arrived Friday for talks with leaders of the much bigger Pakistan-based rebel



Benazir Bhutto

alliance. Khalili met the rebel prime minister, Abdur Rasul Sayyaf, Sunday. On Saturday he held talks with the government's president, Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, and other rebel leaders.

Najibullah address

In his 80-minute address to delegates from around the country, Najibullah said Saturday Kabul could call on full Soviet support to face any aggression.

Najibullah, former head of the Afghan secret police, said Kabul wanted peace and national reconciliation but past offers had been rebuffed.

He offered a new ceasefire in the nine-year war and said he would quit if it would help create the conditions for a political settlement in the rugged, landlocked country.

Laying out a plan for reconciliation between the warring groups based on nationwide elections leading to a new government, he repeated suggestions for an international conference to secure Afghanistan as a neutral and non-aligned state.

Addressing the opening session of the Loya Jirga, a 720-member assembly of provincial delegates, tribal elders and government ministers as well as representa-

tives of worker and peasant groups, the president said they should set up a special mediatory commission to talk with rebel organisations and supporters of the exiled former King Zahir Shah.

The two-day assembly will also decide on whether to extend the state of emergency, declared after the February withdrawal of Soviet forces.

Najibullah said that despite a series of peace proposals by Kabul, Pakistan was supplying rebels near the besieged city of Jalalabad, east of Kabul, with American weapons ferried into Afghanistan by helicopter, and was also flying in Saudi Arabian military advisers to the guerrillas.

He said Pakistani intelligence services had provided the tactical blueprint for rebel offensives against key Afghan cities following the Soviet pullout.

He said two Pakistani army divisions were providing support for the rebels around Jalalabad, which has been under siege since early March. Pakistan has denied that its military is helping the rebels.

The Pakistanis, through their help and possible direct intervention, risked turning the Afghan war into a regional conflict, Najibullah stated.

"(With) persistent and active interference from outside, there exists the danger of the domestic dispute of the republic of Afghanistan culminating in an Afghanistan-Pakistan war," he declared.

"Plane shot down" Rebels claimed Saturday to have killed at least 10 government soldiers and shot down a Soviet-built jet in the most recent fighting in Afghanistan.

A private Pakistani news service claimed the pilot, who was killed, was an Indian national but there was no independent confirmation.

The guerrillas' Afghan News Agency said Mujahadeen attacked the military airport of the southeastern city of Kandahar Thursday, wounding 11 government soldiers and shooting down a MiG-21 fighter-bomber.

The Pakistani news service, Agency of Afghan Press, said the insurgents hit the plane with an anti-aircraft missile as it was taking off.



PALESTINIAN youths march in a huge memorial demonstration, carrying Palestinian flags and wearing T-shirts bearing the picture of a Palestinian boy from Beit Sahour who was killed by the Israeli Army.

UAE urges Iran to help Islamic unity

ABU DHABI (AP) — President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan has urged Iran to help establish Islamic solidarity, warning that differences weakened Arabs and Muslims alike.

Sheikh Zayed made the appeal at a meeting with the Iranian ambassador to the UAE, Mustafa Fomeini Haeri, late Saturday, the official WAM news agency reported.

The appeal came amid a renewed propaganda war between Iran and Saudi Arabia over Saudi restrictions on the number of pilgrims Muslim countries can send on the annual Haj pilgrimage.

Iran, which normally sends around 150,000 pilgrims, would only be allowed to send 50,000 under the Saudi restrictions.

Tehran has warned the Saudis they are making a "big mistake" and called for stripping the Saudi royal family of its custodianship of Mecca and Medina.

The USE, which has close ties with Iran, is grouped with Saudi Arabia in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) along with Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

The Saudis blamed the Iranians for triggering riots in Mecca during the 1987 pilgrimage in which more than 400 people, most of them Iranians, were killed.

WAM said Sheikh Zayed expressed optimism that inter-Arab and Islamic differences were being eliminated and said that Iran was "capable of achieving peace and cooperation in the service of Islam through negotia-

tions." Sheikh Zayed also said that healing several rifts within the Arab World and the emergence of new groupings will boost Islamic solidarity.

"Perhaps negotiations in the past was a difficult matter... but now it has become easy because the Arab Nation is now grouped in three alliances," he said.

Apart from the GCC, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Yemen formed the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) earlier this year and the Arab states of North Africa have formed the Arab Maghreb Union.

Sheikh Zayed stressed that any agreement between Arab and Islamic nations bolsters peace and stability.

"Splits, differences and wars among brothers are the reason for the state of weakness," he added.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) supports the Saudi position in the dispute with Iran.

Saudi Arabia said it introduced the quotas while extensive renovation and extension work was carried out at the holy places. When the work is completed, the Grand Mosque in Mecca will be able to hold almost one million worshippers at a time.

Saudi newspapers continued to criticise Iran. "The government of Iran should have participated in this important conference... the Iranian people are suffering from the Iranian authorities' attitude," the daily Al Bilad said Saturday.



Sheikh Zayed

OIC ministers have decided to set up an executive bureau in Mecca under the chairmanship of Saudi Haj and Endowments Minister Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Waseel.

The religious affairs ministers of Jordan, Indonesia, Gambia, Pakistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt and Morocco will be members of the bureau which will have a three-year tenure and will meet every year.

The Saudi Press Agency said the OIC ministers, meeting this week in Saudi Arabia, agreed to form four committees to enhance coordination among Islamic states and fight anti-Islamic trends.

The ministers also said supporting the 17-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories was an Islamic duty.

They also called for immediate recognition of a government proclaimed by Mujahadeen rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan.

Hundreds feared killed in Sudan tribal feud

KHARTOUM (R) — Hundreds of people are feared dead in tribal warfare in western Sudan, scores of villages have been burned down.

Khartoum newspapers Sunday reported up to 800 killed in remote southern Darfur province last week. The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said police and army reinforcements were being sent in.

Darfur, known as Sudan's "wild west," has been in turmoil for years because of fighting between fur tribesmen and nomads.

The disputes, often over grazing land, have been inflamed by the infiltration of armed groups from neighbouring Chad.

The independent Al Ayam newspaper quoted Darfur Governor Al Tigrani Sisi as saying 536 people were killed in five days of battles. Other reports put the death toll at 700 to 800. They said scores of villages were burned down.

Interior Minister Mubarak Al Fadel Al Mahdi will visit Darfur soon, SUNA said.

Rebels say Khomeini setting stage for Montazeri to 'repent' or be killed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The main Iranian opposition group, Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, has accused Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of trying to set the stage for a public "repentance" by his erstwhile successor or to "physically eliminate" him.

Commenting on a letter sent by Khomeini's son, Ahmad, to Hossein-Ali Montazeri, Mujahadeen leader Masoud Rajavi said:

"The letter by Khomeini's son to Montazeri, which is in fact Khomeini's own positions against Montazeri, shows clearly what Khomeini intends to do with Montazeri. Because of Montazeri's recognition of the Mujahadeen, his acknowledgement of the Mujahadeen's legitimacy and his declaration that murdering the Mujahadeen would only 'propagate' them, Khomeini intends to either compel Montazeri to repent on TV or set the stage for the physical elimination of his former designated successor and his followers."

According to Ahmad Khomeini, Montazeri was ousted as future leader of Iran partly because he had indirect contact with government opponents.

Ahmad Khomeini said in a letter published in Ertelaat newspaper Tuesday that Montazeri's

office, run by his son-in-law Hashemi, had established contacts with the Mujahadeen.

Ahmad said his letter aimed to shed light on why his father sacked Montazeri in March as his designated successor. "The Imam (Khomeini) cried several times after dismissing you," he said in the letter addressed to Montazeri.

"He was repeatedly said 'I cannot stop thinking about Mr. Montazeri for a moment, but I couldn't disregard the interests of the system.'"

Montazeri, a student of Khomeini, became a harsh critic of what he saw as shortcomings and extremist attitudes threatening Iran's revolution.

Ahmad praised Montazeri's scholarship and past record of struggle for Islam, but said Khomeini had indirectly warned Montazeri about his associates as far back as 1983.

He recalled several private meetings in which Khomeini and other senior officials pleaded with a stubborn Montazeri to change his ways.

"May God forgive me and send me death," he quoted Khomeini as saying in frustration after their last meeting earlier this year.

Problems grew in October 1986 when Mehdi Hashemi, Hadi's

brother, was arrested and later executed for murder, subversion and kidnapping. Montazeri had appointed Mehdi to a post in the revolutionary guards.

"The incultations of the conspiratorial gang of Mehdi Hashemi led you to articulate positions desired by sworn enemies of the revolution," Ahmad said.

He quoted Mehdi Hashemi as having confessed that his brother Hadi preferred the Mujahadeen to the Tehran government and had concluded that contacts with opposition groups abroad were necessary.

The Mujahadeen said last month that revolutionary guards had beaten up and arrested Hadi Hashemi and Montazeri's son Saeed.

Ahmad also quoted an undated letter by Montazeri in which he had argued that the Mujahadeen represented a school of thought and the way to oppose them was through persuasion and logic rather than killing.

The official view is that the group is a tool of the United States to subvert the revolution and assassinate its key leaders.

Ahmad said most criticisms by Montazeri in several letters last year, including a protest against execution of Mujahadeen sympathisers, were unrealistic or unfounded.

PFLP-GC maintains innocence in bombing

DAMASCUS (AP) — Allegations by Western investigators that a Syrian-based Palestinian faction was responsible for bombing a Pan American jumbo jet in December are aimed at discrediting Syria, the group's spokesman said.

Fadi Shrourou said in an interview late Saturday that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) "rejects (Central Intelligence Agency) CIA insistence that we're to blame in this affair."

"These charges are directed against our deep relationship with Syria... but the Syrians are sure we have nothing to do with this operations," he said.

PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril has denied his group had any part in the Pan Am bombing, which he called "barbaric." But he admitted last month that his faction employs devices similar to the one used to blow up the Boeing 747 Dec. 21.

The PFLP-GC is one of several

Palestinian factions based in Damascus that opposes the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership.

Western intelligence officials have said the PFLP-GC remains a prime suspect in the bombing of Flight 103.

They contend that the bombing was carried out at Iran's request to retaliate for the downing of an Iranian jetliner in the Gulf by the U.S. missile cruiser Vincennes July 3 last year.

The warship mistook the Iran Air Airbus for an Iranian fighter jet. All 290 people aboard the Airbus were killed.

The Pan Am Boeing, flying from Frankfurt to New York, crashed after a bomb, believed hidden in a cassette recorder, exploded in a baggage compartment.

All 259 people aboard were killed when it crashed into the Scottish village of Lockerbie. Eleven people on the ground were also killed.

"We're not agents for Iran or anybody else, Shrourou said in

his basement office in a heavily guarded building in downtown Damascus.

"They didn't ask us. They're not allowed to ask us for such things."

Iran last week repeated a denial that it was involved in the Pan Am bombing. U.S. investigators also suspect Libyan involvement in the Pan Am bombing, but no concrete evidence has been produced to pin down who was behind the atrocity.

"This sort of operation isn't our style," Shrourou said. "We attack Israeli military targets, not European and American civilians."

The PFLP-GC recently launched attacks against the Israeli army in the self-designated "security zone" Israel occupies in South Lebanon.

Shrourou said that most of a group of 14 PFLP-GC members arrested in West Germany last October have been freed "leaving only one or two in custody."

The group included Hafez Kas-

sem Dalkamoni, one of Jibril's senior lieutenants.

The Palestinians had Czech Semtex explosives and barometric sensors. Investigators say Semtex was used in the Pan Am bomb, which they believe may have been triggered by a barometric device.

Shrourou said the explosives found in Germany were "en route to Palestine and were not intended for use against a European target."

The United States has asked Syria to curb the PFLP-GC's activities.

Syria has said that if evidence is produced to link the group with the Pan Am bombing, it will bring those responsible to justice.

Shrourou said that Syrian authorities have not questioned the PFLP-GC about the allegations.

"We're not going to do anything to embarrass Syria," he stressed. "We have a relationship of confidence with them, of a political nature... it doesn't need to be investigated."

News in Brief

Iranian infiltrators captured in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Security forces have arrested 48 Iranians who landed from a ship on Kuwait's Gulf coast Friday night and are hunting others who escaped, the Al Anbasa daily reported Sunday. A Senior Interior Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed the report to the AP but did not say how many people were involved. The interrogation of the infiltrators indicate that their number was between 75 and 80, Al Anbasa said in a front-page report. "This means that about 52 of them managed to hide or were drowned. They are being hunted by the police." The Iranians were seen coming ashore at Ras Al Salmiyah, 13 kilometres south of Kuwait City and police swooped on the beach. The Al Anbasa report indicated that the Iranians were not armed, but were seeking work in Kuwait.

Iran hangs 14

NICOSIA (AP) — Fourteen drug traffickers convicted by Islamic courts were publicly hanged in two Iranian cities Sunday, raising the number of such executions in the last nine days to 79, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast said that the hangings took place in the northwestern city of Lahan, and the central city of Birjand. The Iranian authorities have executed 637 drug smugglers since they launched a nation-wide anti-narcotics crackdown in December. The hangings have increased in frequency in recent days.

Qaboos ends visit to Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman Sunday ended a three-day official visit and departed for Morocco where he will attend an Arab League summit. The Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. MENA said Qaboos was given an official farewell ceremony and that President Hosni Mubarak accompanied him to Cairo international airport to see him off. Oman and Egypt have maintained close ties and their two leaders periodically meet for consultations.

Ozal visits Tunis

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal left Sunday for a three-day official visit to Tunisia. Ozal, accompanied by businessmen and parliamentarians, will have talks with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and is expected to meet President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, officials said. They said there were no problems in relations between Turkey and Tunisia, part of the Ottoman empire between 1574 and 1981. The two sides are likely to discuss boosting trade and sea transport. Turkey mainly exports steel bars and food and buys phosphates, chemicals and leather from Tunisia.

Tehran sees better ties with China

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei's visit to China this month paved the way for a review of Iranian contacts with Muslims in China, a Tehran newspaper said Sunday. Iran's IRNA news agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the Tehran Times as saying that the happiest moments of Khamenei's tour of China came when he visited its Muslim community. "President Khamenei's visit to the Muslim regions of China will pave the way for reviewing contacts of Iran with their Muslim brothers in China," the English-language newspaper said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News summary in Arabic
15:55 World News
16:00 News around us
16:05 Local programme
16:10 Programme review
16:15 Monday Forum
16:20 Variety Show
16:25 News summary in Arabic
16:30 Variety show (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Le Monde Est a Vous
17:35 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Kate and Allie
21:10 O'Han
22:00 News in English
22:20 Melba

PRAYER TIMES

05:59 Fajr
06:30 Sunrise (Doha)
12:32 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:34 Maghreb

21:05 Jaha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweithel Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 624400
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Tevassat Church Tel. 625366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 717151
Assyrian International Church Tel. 685336
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812355
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A gradual drop in temperatures is expected through the coming days. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman Min./Max. temp. 20/31
Aqaba 25/38
Deserts 22/36
Jordan Valley 23/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. George Al Sabouri 776751
Dr. Tayseer Al Saadi 776636
Dr. Kayed Hakeem 776324
Dr. Tayseer Khadi 608857
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 632772
Al Sahan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shuciani pharmacy 637660

DRBD:
Dr. Kamal Al Najjar (-)
Al Sharaa pharmacy 985238
ZARQA:
Dr. Ziad Hawamteh (-)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891226
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630521
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 891467
Complaints 891467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Regency 661101
Abdoli Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Jordan Authority 680100
Water Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 81831/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Abdoli Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marfa 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 662405/9
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)34111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)3200-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
16:10 Aqaba (RJ)
16:10 Damascus (RJ)
16:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:35 Frankfurt (LH)
16:40 Sana'a (RJ)
16:45 Kuwait (RJ)
16:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:45 Laruna (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
18:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
19:40 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
16:10 Sana'a (LH)
16:35 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
13:50 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (QF)
14:30 Kuwait (KU)
15:00 Baghdad (IA)
18:25 Paris (AF)
06:15 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:55 Aqaba (RJ)
12:30 Brussels, New York (RJ)
12:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
13:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:40 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:15 Jeddah (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Dubai, Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Cairo, London (BA)
06:30 Frankfurt (LH)
11:20 Cairo (MS)
14:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
14:20 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah (QF)
15:35 Kuwait (KU)
16:40 Baghdad (IA)
19:20 Baghdad (AF)
01:15 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apples 300 / 400
Bananas 350 / 400
Bananas (Mukannar) 300 / 250
Beans 360 / 300
Broad beans 380 / 340
Cabbages 180 / 140
Carrots 130 / 100
Cauliflowers 230 / 200
Cucumbers 140 / 100
Dates 300 / 400
Eggplants 130 / 100
Garlic 130 / 100
Lemon 330 / 400
Lemons (per



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday receives a visiting team from the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Prince Hassan receives Soviet Academy of Sciences team

Jordan, Soviet Union sign scientific agreement today

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday welcomed Soviet-Jordanian cooperation in scientific fields and in prospecting for mineral resources, and the exploitation of underground water and also in geological and seismological surveys in Jordan.

Prince Hassan was speaking at a meeting in his office with members of a visiting team representing the Soviet Academy of Sciences led by Professor Oleg Bogatikov.

The Crown Prince said that an agreement on cooperation between the two countries in scientific fields which will be signed here Monday by the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the Soviet Academy will pave the way for bilateral and fruitful work between Soviet and Jordanian scientific institutions.

Prince Hassan said that Jordan ought to benefit from Soviet experience in technological fields and the employment of different forms of energy and geological research programmes and experiments in these fields.

For his part, the Soviet professor expressed the academy's readiness to initiate cooperation with Jordanian institutions within the framework of a Jordanian-Soviet scientific cooperation agreement.

The Soviet team which arrived here on Tuesday on a week-long visit is touring a number of Jordanian scientific institutions including the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

According to an earlier statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the agreement to be signed here Monday will initiate cooperation in science and technology, renewed energy and environmental protection.

Khammash inspects Aqaba

Goods destined to Iraq insured

AQABA (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Khammash visited the port city of Aqaba Sunday and inspected port installations and met with the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) President Bassem Qasbi to discuss projects in the Aqaba region.

At a meeting later the minister announced that an agreement was reached with a union for local truck owners on imposing a JD 3.5 insurance fee on each vehicle transporting goods destined for Iraq from the port city.

The minister noted that such insurance would entitle the truck owners to claim compensation for any loss in the goods on the trucks for which he will have to pay to the importers in Iraq.

At the meeting, the Aqaba Port Corporation Director Eid Al Fayez told the minister that the corporation's revenues last year amounted to JD 40.5 million collected in services at the port, and that the harbour handled a total of 206,600 tonnes of goods in the import-export operations.

Saqqaf leads Jordan delegation to Qatar

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Cabinet on Sunday formed Jordan's delegation to the joint Jordanian-Qatari committee meeting which is due to be held in Doha, Qatar to discuss the implementation of a bilateral economic and trade agreement reached earlier between the two countries.

Mr. Mohammad Saqqaf of the Ministry of Industry and Trade's secretary general will lead the

Jordanian delegation to the Doha meeting, according to the statement.

The Council of Ministers also Sunday announced its approval of technical assistance from the Canadian Agency for International Development.

The assistance will benefit "the occupational health and safety institute" which is operated by the Ministry of Labour.

Fun for all the family Friday

British ladies 'provide help for poorest'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British Ladies of Amman (BLA) will hold their annual May fair this coming Friday with great hopes pinned on raising considerable funds for charitable activities around the country.

"We like to give small amounts to small charities that get overlooked by the large ones," says BLA treasurer Lesley Al Zaka. "We look to help the poorest of the poor."

During last year's May fair, the BLA raised approximately JD 5,400. Nearly JD 1,000 of those were donated to a fund for individual help offered through the refugee community centres for the disabled in the Balqa, Suf, Jerash and Husn refugee camps. Handicapped children were given

calipers, medical boots, hearing aids. Operations were even performed on some of the children allowing some of them to stand normal chances of mobility and saving one of them at least amputation of the legs.

With the money raised from the May fair, the BLA provides the "Home of Peace" for the elderly with heating and grocery money on a monthly basis. The BLA also provides JD 200 worth of medicines for the Franciscan Sisters every three months. Children at a school for the deaf in Salt has also benefited from BLA donations, among others.

With no administration structure as such, the BLA finds it necessary to work through recognised charities such as UNRWA

or camp committees who provide advice and information on individual cases that need assistance. They do not get involved directly in the cases themselves but the question of who the assistance is to go to is usually decided by a committee of 13 BLA members.

"In the cases of other charity activities, a lot of money is lost through the administration, but that is not the case with us," Zaka said. "We look to get the most out of each dollar that is donated."

The BLA members, which number no more than 200, also offer their own time in helping the poor. A number of them for example pay regular visits to the Home of Peace.

Sharif Zaid condoles Lebanon

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday delegated Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin to the Lebanese embassy in Amman to convey his condolences on the death of Sheikh Hassan Khaled the mufti of Lebanon and the Sunni leader who was killed in a car bomb blast in Beirut last week.

The minister signed a special condolences register at the embassy and expressed the government's deepest sorrow over the death of the late mufti. Izzeddin expressed his hope that the Lebanese people will overcome their present ordeal and achieve reconciliation and unity to which the late mufti had devoted all his life.

Khayyat returns from Mecca

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan took part in the fourth Organisation of Islamic Conference's ministerial meeting which was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia last week.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat who represented Jordan at the meeting said that topics on the agenda of the three-day meeting included coordination among ministries of Awqaf in Islamic nations in religious affairs and in providing assistance to Islamic minorities around the world.

The minister who was speaking upon returning to Amman from the meeting said that a general plan for Islamic countries to propagate Islamic faith was discussed at the meeting which was attended by ministers of Awqaf and Islamic affairs.

He said that the meeting set up a nine member executive council including Jordan to help implement the conference's resolutions and recommendations. Khayyat also noted that the Islamic conference endorsed a quota specifying the number of pilgrims from each country to perform this year's pilgrimage to Mecca.

80 companies exhibit in Independence Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — A permanent exhibition of Jordanian industries will be inaugurated on Saturday in the course of the Kingdom's Independence Day celebrations that start on May 25, according to an official announcement here Sunday. The announcement said that the exhibition in which 80 local companies are participating is designed to highlight Jordan's industries and help market their products here and abroad.

The exhibition which has been set up on 700 square metres within the premises of the Sahab Industrial City (SIC) will display various types of Jordanian products manufactured in the SIC or other parts of the country, according to the announcement.

It said that the door will be open more companies to acquire wings within the exhibition which can accommodate pavilions for 350 companies.

Both the exhibition and the SIC have been established by the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) whose Director General Fayez Suheimat had said that the SIC employs 4,000 people working for different industrial plants and businesses set up there.

According to Suheimat, factories set up at the SIC produce food, electrical appliances, plastic, leather, rubber products, chemicals and textiles, furniture, paper and medicine among others.

Khleifat arrives in Cairo for youth talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Awad Khleifat Sunday arrived in Cairo for a five day official visit to Egypt on an invitation by the Egyptian chairman of the higher council for youth and sports.

In an arrival statement Khleifat said he will hold talks with Egyptian officials on implementing provisions of an agreement already concluded in Amman between Jordan and Egypt.

Khleifat said the agreement was designed to enhance the brotherly bilateral relations, particularly in the field of youth.

Khleifat voiced hope that they will be able to lay the foundations for real coordination and interaction among youths from both countries.

Malhas opens symposium on diseases

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zuhair Malhas Monday opens a specialised symposium on the private sector role in combating non-communicable diseases, organised by the Health Ministry in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

The symposium aims at exploring the best means of prevention from non-communicable diseases, such as heart diseases, cancer, high blood pressure, diabetes, aging, blindness, radiation, and diseases caused by environmental pollution.

The symposium will tackle issues pertaining to the objectives, tasks and terms of reference of non-communicable diseases departments, in addition to exploring the best means of cooperation and coordination between GUVS and the ministry.

The symposium will also discuss the formation of a special committee in charge of drawing up future plans of action.

Head of the non-communicable diseases department at the Health Ministry Mohammad Shreim described the role played by the private sector as that of organisation, supervision and guidance for the societies concerned with non-communicable diseases.

'Jordan will attain self-sufficiency in fresh fish in two years'

Food situation good — Badran

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is expected to attain self-sufficiency of fresh fish in one to two years from now, thanks to a major fishery project that is being implemented now by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the Science Marine Station at the port city of Aqaba, Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran announced Sunday.



Adnan Badran

Jordan's annual consumption of fish is nearly 7,000 tonnes, and for this reason, an experimental project was launched in the Red Sea port which proved highly successful, the minister said in a statement to Radio Jordan.

Badran said that the agreement with the marine station is to breed fish in large plastic bags in the sea off the port area, and it is hoped that sufficient fish will be collected to meet the local needs.

The minister said Jordan is now self-sufficient in poultry meat and table egg and that local farms produce 400 million eggs annually most of which is consumed by the local markets. He expressed hope that the country will have a surplus of the poultry meat in the near future so that some can be exported.

The ministry will focus attention at present on producing more corn and maize and barley in abundant quantities in addition to growing plants in the semi-desert regions to serve as animal feed, Badran added.

The minister said that local markets are provided with sufficient lean meat on a constant basis, and the ministry plans to allow stock breeders to export sheep weighing more than 30 kilograms for which there is no demand in the local market.

Referring to dairy products the minister noted that more licences will be issued to farmers and cattle breeders to create farms to produce dairy products. Jordan's dairy industries are now employing nearly 75 per cent of all the total amount of milk produced in the country, the minister said. He noted that the ministry has adopted a plan by which all dairy output will be employing fresh milk produced in the country.

According to a Cabinet statement Saturday evening, the responsibility of distributing fodder to farmers in Jordan has now shifted from the Ministry of Supply to the Jordan Cooperative Organisation.

Dr. Badran Sunday met with the president and board members of the Jordanian union of dealers in agricultural equipment and told them that Jordan is now self-sufficient in veterinary medicines, and called on the private sector and the merchants to coordinate their work within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) of which Jordan is a member.

The meeting discussed Jordan's production of farm inputs and other various requirements and Badran said the Ministry of Agriculture is quite ready to cooperate with the private sector and open the agricultural stations' laboratories for any private sector experiments, so that the country can cut on imports of agricultural materials and seeds for farming.

According to the minister, Jordan last year imported JD 17.5 million worth of agricultural materials and seeds, up from JD 13.5 million in 1987. He said that the Kingdom's total agricultural exports in 1988 amounted to JD 64.5 million, up from JD 45 million in the previous year.

Egypt Air return expected

AACO considers joint leasing company

TUNIS (Petra) — A meeting to open in Tunis Monday by the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) is expected to announce the return of Egypt Air to the organisation and to discuss a Jordanian-sponsored proposal for the creation of a pan-Arab company for the purchase and lease of aircraft, according to Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour.

Ghandour who will represent Jordan at the meeting, said that the (AACO) had earlier adopted the establishment of the joint company project in principle and requested Kuwait Airways, (RJ) and the Moroccan Airline to conduct a feasibility study in this connection. The projected company will help provide Arab airlines with aircraft and spare parts and end a foreign monopoly in this business, Ghandour noted.

In addition to these questions, the Tunis meeting is expected to discuss setting up a proposed pan-Arab airlines reservation system Ghandour noted.

Representatives of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and other world organisations and tourist and travel agencies will attend the meeting.



Ali Ghandour

Jordan's history conference

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University will take part in the fifth conference on Jordan's history which will be held in the French University of Lyon on May 29. Dean of the education and fine arts faculty Youssef Ghawanmeh, who will represent the university at the conference, will submit a working paper entitled "Earthquakes in Greater Syria during the Islamic era and its impact on the architectural features."

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * An art exhibition by Aziz Ammoura at the Gallery Hall, Jabal Lweilbeh.
- * A photography exhibition by British photographer and writer Jane Taylor in which 41 aerial photographs of various places in Jordan are on display at Alia Gallery.
- * A photography exhibition by Adib Atwan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Diana Shamouki at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition entitled "Spotlight Germany" displaying works by eleven German photographers at the Goethe Institute.
- * An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- * An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- * The annual exhibition of the Nazareth School students at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.

FILMS

- * A Charly Chaplin film week at Haya Cultural Centre (for more information call the centre or the British Council).

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EXHIBITION: A photo exhibition by Jordanian artist Adib Atwan is underway at the Spanish Cultural Centre in Amman. The two-week exhibition includes 14 photographs depicting life in Jordan (Petra).

SCHOOLS: A seminar on raising the proficiency of schools principals in the 1990s recently concluded at Mu'ta University. During the two-day seminar 17 papers were presented by researchers from the Ministry of Education, Jordanian universities, and other educational institutes in Jordan (J.T.).

PASSPORTS: The Civil Status and Passport Department Saturday called on students to submit applications for the issuance of passports and identity cards before the end of the scholastic year so as to avoid the rush which the department passes through every summer. The department expressed readiness to provide all necessary facilities for students (Petra).

TENDER: The Madaba municipal council has awarded a tender worth JD 250,000 to asphalt the streets of Madaba to a local company. This project follows the recent completion of Madaba's water and sewerage networks (Petra).

LIBRARY: Director of research and educational development centre at Yarmouk University Dr. Khalil Al Khalili has noted that the video library at the centre contains 1,917 scientific films, 249 cinema films, and over 10,000 slides covering various scientific subjects (J.T.).

NHF COURSE: Housewives in Aqaba Saturday began attending a course at the Aqaba branch of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in maintaining household electric equipment. The centre director said that NHF will establish a household electric equipment maintenance unit so as to provide jobs for the graduates (Petra).

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY CO.

TENDER No. 1/89

You are kindly requested to tender for the supply of 2,000 pieces 6 inch, 3,600 pieces 5 inch and 2,000 pieces 4 inch steel pipes, 55,000 steel bolts and 30 ton steel strips.

You are required to complete and sign the attached form of tender, fill in the schedules and forward the complete tender documents to be received by IDECO not later than 12 O'clock on Thursday June 29, 1989.

Tender document price JD 20, and these sums are not refundable.

Fixed price contracts are required and tender must be valid for three months and be accompanied by a bid bond of 5 per cent of the tender price.

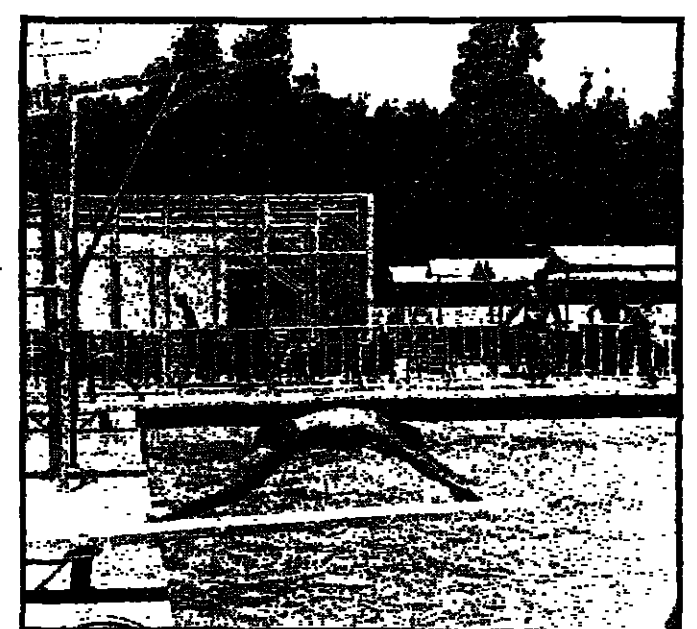
Your offer should be addressed to:

Director General,
Irbid District Electricity Co.,
P.O. Box 46,
Irbid - Jordan.

THE AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL



SUMMER SCHOOL 1989



COURSES: LANGUAGES (ARABIC, ENGLISH)
ACTIVITIES: (COMPUTER STUDIES, ART, DRAMA, DANCE)
SPORTS: (TENNIS, SWIMMING, GENERAL FITNESS, SQUASH)

For further information, please call 845572 or 847191.

JUNE 24, 1989 - JULY 13, 1989
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Jordan Times

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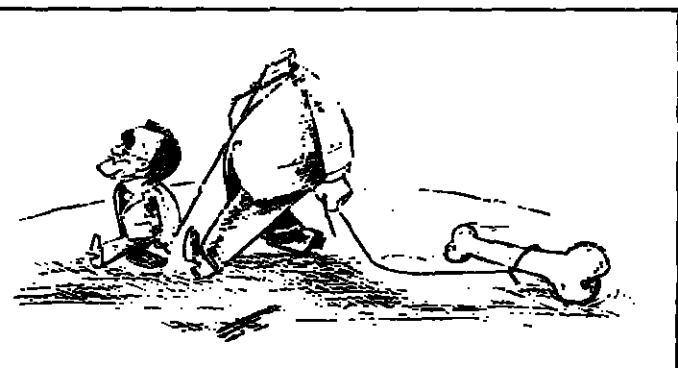
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Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Bold diplomacy needed

INTRA-LIKUD rivalry is to be commended for squeezing out the truth from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on his so-called election scheme. Shamir's confession to ultra extremists within the ranks of his Likud party last week that his government will not give the Arabs even one inch of the West Bank, Gaza Strip or the Golan Heights, even if negotiations with the Arabs drag on for decades, is a step in the right direction for it affirms to all parties, on top of which the Bush administration, where in fact Israel of today really stands on the issues of war and peace in the Middle East. By removing all cloaks and admitting that his initiative is nothing but the Camp David accords put in a new package, Shamir is serving notice on the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab World that they can expect nothing from Israel except despair.

Against this backdrop there is no wonder that the intifada leadership has issued its 40th leaflet in which it served notice on Israel that henceforth the Palestinian side will practice an old Jewish law that calls for tooth for tooth and eye for eye. Thus the Israelis and Palestinians are raising the stakes to new danger levels in the aftermath of the rise of the human toll on the Palestinian side as part and parcel of Israel's new policy to crackdown on the Palestinian uprising whatever the price is for the two sides.

There is no doubt that the Palestinian hard decision to kill an Israeli soldier or a Jewish settler for each Palestinian that dies at the hands of the Israelis grew out of the despair that ensued from the latest Israeli so-called peace plan and from the Israeli escalation of its oppression against the Palestinians in a vain hope to put out the fire of the Palestinians insurgency. Nevertheless, there is still hope to reverse this tide of escalation on the part of the Israelis and the Palestinians if the superpowers, especially the U.S., would decide to exercise their solemn duties and obligations towards the Arab-Israeli conflict in a much more meaningful and operational way before a bigger conflagration hits the whole region. Quiet diplomacy, sweet talks and pious remarks can no longer do the job that is necessary. The Middle East calls for blunt and bold diplomacy that is reminiscent of the days of former President Dwight Eisenhower. Such form of diplomacy is the only type of diplomacy that can save this region from the abyss of additional generations of blood baths and destruction.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Sunday discussed Israel's current moves to peddle its elections proposal in Europe. The paper said that the proposals which will not achieve any freedom for the Palestinians in their own homeland and cannot result in Israeli withdrawals are now being advocated by the Israeli leaders in European capitals. By presenting the ideas to Europe Israel is thus rejecting the European countries idea about a lasting settlement to the Middle East problem through an international conference and rejecting at the same time any idea about giving rights to the Palestinians, the paper noted. It said that the elections proposal which King Hussein considered as a delaying tactic to waste time is meant to help Israel escape European pressure and to abort any move towards the proposed international conference, the paper added. It said that the escalation of Israeli atrocities against the Arab people in Palestine is sufficient to make the Europeans understand the misleading ideas of the Israeli leaders.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday launched a bitter attack on a number of companies partly owned by the government and whose board members amass wealth illegitimately and at the expense of the national economy. Khalil Khouri says that instead of seeking assistance from the wealthy Arab states one should turn attention to members of the boards of companies which are not making any profit but serve as a liability to the national economy and whose board members continue to exploit their own positions for their own selfish interests. The writer accuses board members of these companies of entering into deals from which they continue to earn commissions, of taking decisions on buying furniture or moving to modern blocks for the sake of bringing financial benefits to friends and acquaintances and of handling the management of their respective departments in a manner that would earn the board members more profits without any use for the economy. The writer cites a number of examples without naming any company and says that the government should examine these companies through the Audit Bureau and should introduce measures to impose control on the wasted funds subject to debates in parliament.

Al Distour daily commented Sunday on Egypt's participation in the coming Arab summit due on May 23 in Casablanca. The paper said that the return of Egypt is a turning point in collective Arab action and a new constructive step enabling the Arab countries to attain their national aspirations. The return of Egypt to the Arab League and the Arab summit come at a time when the Arab countries are about to discuss crucial issues like that of Lebanon and the situation in the Israeli held Arab territories, the paper noted. It said that the coming meeting is therefore important not only due to Egypt's participation and the seriousness of the question on the agenda but also because it is a gathering that would shape the situation in the Arab World for the coming stage and pave the way for collective action to alleviate the suffering of the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

Weekly Political Pulse

Unbridgeable gap

By Waleed Sadi

THE SHAMIR election scheme reveals that after 18 months of the Palestinian intifada and an equally flurried flurry of international and regional diplomacy, the Israeli establishment and the Palestinians are more at loggerheads than ever with no sign that their future relations would fare better as long as Shamir and like-minded Israelis are on the helm. What is even more exacerbating and ominous is the fact that much blood has been spilt on both sides, albeit much more on the Arab Palestinian side. One can therefore be sure that animosity and hostility between the two peoples have reached a boiling point. The overt Israeli cry for Palestinian blood in the wake of the recent killing of two Israeli soldiers is matched by a Palestinian latent drive to seek revenge for the blood of the hundreds of Palestinians who were slain by the Israeli military machinery in a desperate attempt to stem their uprising. Therefore, unless a breakthrough can be struck soon, the two peoples may end up reaching the point of no return which would most probably lead them to a new abyss if not to outright apocalyptic results.

Time is, therefore, of the essence in the face of the rapid deterioration in the two peoples' relation. Yet the superpowers appear to be just marking time when they should be doing exactly the opposite. As for the Shamir's election play, there is no escape from the conclusion that he also aims, inter alia, at marking time by pretending that his so-called initiative has placed the ball squarely in the Arab side of the court. The American-PLO dialogue is also getting to be an open-ended exercise with no tangible result in sight. As for the Soviet Union it is as usual staying as aloof as much as possible with growing signs that

reaching accommodations with the U.S. on various regional and global issues and conflicts is now the Soviets' number one concern and priority. The rest of the world, including Western Europe are in fact spectators preferring to stay on the periphery of the heat of the Arab-Israeli conflict; with some of them making daring sweeps to cash in on the conflict in an effort to capitalise on it as much as possible.

The foregoing lines obviously draw a very pessimistic picture of the situation in the Middle East. For a long time and until the birth of the so-called Shamir peace plan, there was a glimmer of hope that the voice of reason is finally prevailing in the Middle East. Then came the infamous Shamir initiative and readily one could discern that it was the very straw that broke the camel's back as far as the Arab side is concerned. Foremost, the plan proves that the gap between the Arab and Israeli sides is unbridgeable.

It is not only the sanctity with which Shamir and his followers still view the Camp David Accords or their clinging to the archaic biblical beliefs that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are part and parcel of Eretz Israel or the rejection of the PLO as a negotiating partner or the refutation of the Palestinian aspiration to have their own state on their own soil. Much worse than all these turbulences and booby traps that are plentifully found in the Tel-Aviv election plan is the built-in thoughts and designs that can be found in abundance between the lines and words of the plan that

obviously seeks to sow discord between the Arab parties. After having succeeded in spreading divisions within the Palestinian ranks, Shamir clearly aims to disrupt also inter-Arab accord and harmony for he knows only too well that when there is disunity in the Arab side, Israel would be granted a reprieve on a silver platter. And while envisaging negotiations at a latter stage for a permanent solution after the so-called transitional period for which all proposed options for a permanent settlement would be examined, subparagraph 3(d) clearly stipulates that there will be no change in the status of "Judea, Samaria and Gaza" other than in accordance with the basic guidelines of the government (of Israel), such guidelines, it is being understood, would preclude the surrender of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thus what Israel pretends to offer by one hand takes back by the other hand.

So there we have it as crystal clear as anyone would like to have it. The whole Shamir story as revealed to the Arab side in his election play tells of existing gaps between the two sides that are fundamental and seemingly non-negotiable. One can only thank Prime Minister Shamir for revealing his true colours once again only a few days prior to the convening of the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca. Now the Arab side can take full notice of the Palestinian situation and make the necessary assessment about the future course that the Arab World would have to take. The parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict have no more opportunities to kid one another. The cards have been dealt and they are all now wide open on the table where there are no more opportunities for bluffing.

West wants summit to back PLO, Arab League

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — Western nations are looking to next week's Arab summit in Casablanca to produce signs of compromise on the Arab-Israeli dispute and solid backing for Arab League efforts to halt the fighting in Lebanon.

The summit, from May 23-24, will be the first since radical policy shifts by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose Chairman Yasser Arafat, speaking in Geneva last December, renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist.

The gathering, which Egypt will attend for the first time since it made peace with Israel a decade ago, also follows an Israeli proposal to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for Palestinian delegates to peace talks.

A Spanish foreign ministry spokesman said the European Community (EC), of which Spain is currently president, hoped the summit would lead constructively at the plan advanced by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rather than dismiss it out of hand.

He said Spain believed the proposal could be improved, but should be taken into consideration.

An EC committee comprising Spain, France and Greece has

held contacts with Middle Eastern leaders to promote a settlement, although the community recognises that the United States is the key player from outside the area.

A senior British official said of the summit: "We hope to see confirmation that Egypt is back in the Arab World. It would be a signal to the Israelis, because the Egyptians have not given up anything in order to attend."

"We would also hope to see the summit moving in the direction of the sort of statement Arafat made in Geneva," he said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"Thirdly, on Lebanon, it's a question of giving clear and unequivocal backing to the efforts of the Arab League committee."

Shamir will visit Britain and Spain next week and is expected to discuss his election plan, which West European opinion has greeted with reservations.

West Germany's liberal Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper said: "Most Palestinians see the Americas' attempts to sell the Shamir plan to the PLO and the Arab states as support for Shamir's refusal to consider the central question — the Palestinians' right to self-determination."

Nevertheless, British officials said it was up to the PLO to come up with a counter-proposal. PLO officials say they would welcome elections as long as they form part of an overall peace package leading to an independent state.

The Economist magazine of London said the summit must back Arafat's policies and allow him to pursue the elections idea.

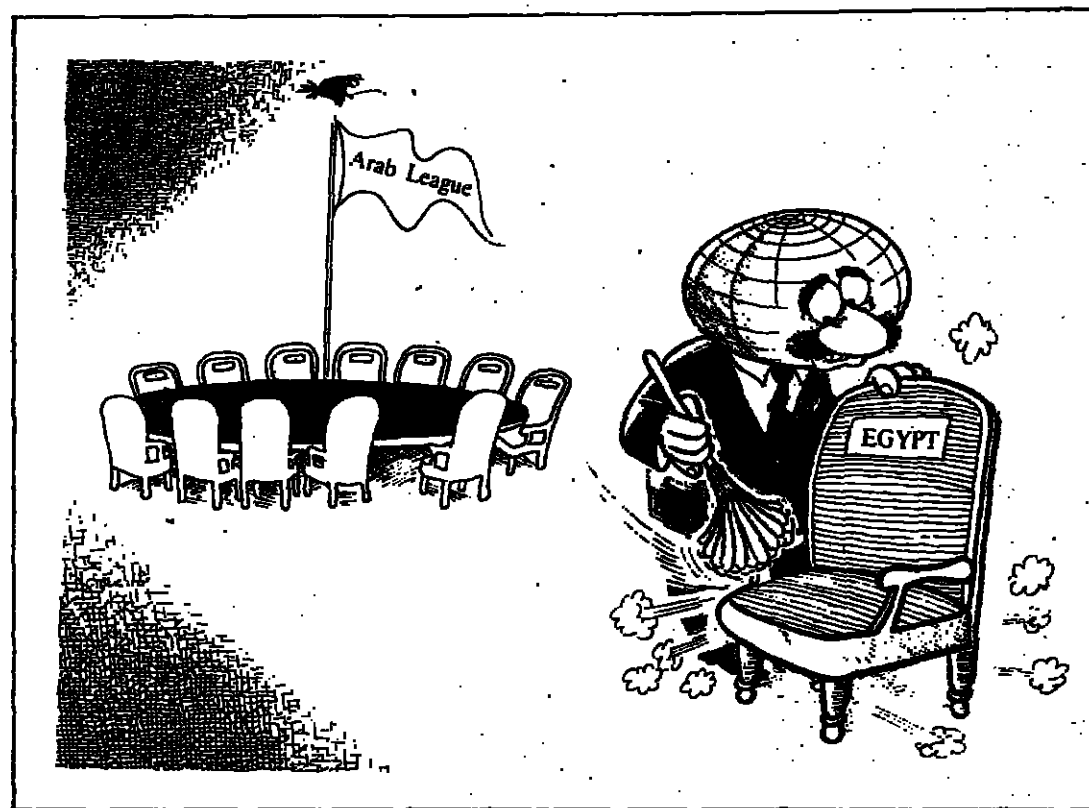
"If the summiters want to hasten the movement towards peace in the region they will say explicitly... that the old Arab dream of destroying the Jewish state has at last been abandoned — not only by the Palestinians but by the wider Arab World as well," it said.

An Italian foreign ministry spokesman said he expected the summit to back the PLO position despite dissenting voices from Syria and Libya.

Middle East experts at the United Nations said they had no great expectations from the summit but looked on it as an opportunity to consolidate limited past gains and renew existing initiatives.

The U.N. would like to be represented by official observers if an when the elections proposal is implemented, but Israel is not expected to accept that idea.

On Lebanon, Western nations have left it to the Kuwaiti-led Arab League committee to try to



resolve the conflict between the Christian forces of army chief General Michel Aoun on one side, and Syria and its Lebanese allies on the other.

The problems that beset a

French attempt earlier this year to send aid to Lebanon confirmed France's partners in their belief that it was better not to get directly involved.

While paying tribute to the committee's efforts, many ex-

perts were sceptical that it could bring peace to Lebanon.

"The question is whether Syria will heed quiet pressure to be more cooperative," one authority at the U.N. said. He added that he doubted that would happen.

Gorbachev returns from summit to growing problems at home

By Peter Conrad
Reuters

MOSCOW — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, back from a Sino-Soviet summit overshadowed by Chinese anti-government protests, faces mounting problems of his own ahead of the inaugural session of the new Soviet parliament.

With Estonia and Lithuania defiantly voting for their economic independence and a resurgence of trouble over the Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh, discontent is growing among some of the country's many ethnic minorities.

Despite a string of foreign policy successes capped by the Soviet leader's historic visit to China, many other domestic problems, notably the deteriorating economic situation, remain unsolved.

And to add to Gorbachev's worries, several members of the leadership, including agricultural supremo Yegor Ligachev, have been named in an investigation into top level corruption, which one weekly said could be "our own Watergate in the making."

These problems threaten to come to a head next week, when some 2,250 deputies, elected in the first multi-candidate poll in more than 70 years, gather in Moscow for a meeting of the new congress of people's deputies.

At separate sessions late on Thursday as Gorbachev flew home, the parliaments of Estonia and Lithuania, spearheading a drive for greater self-rule in all three Baltic republics, voted to take over full control of their economies from Moscow.

Besides giving the republic power its own industry and budgets, the Estonian plan also even calls for the introduction of a separate currency called the koru.

In a further challenge, the Lithuanian parliament, following the lead set by Estonia in November, also made a declaration of "state sovereignty" and voted itself the right to refuse to apply Soviet legislation in its territory.

"The government of the Soviet Union continues to ignore the aspirations of Lithuania for economic independence," the declaration said, adding that Lithuania was "forcibly and illegally annexed to the Soviet Union in 1940."

There was no immediate reaction from the Kremlin, which last November declared the Estonia vote unconstitutional — a move which Estonian President Arnold Ruutel said on Thursday had not stopped his republic from refusing to apply some unpopular laws.

In the southeast, a recent upsurge in a dispute between Armenians and Azerbaijanis over Nagorno-Karabakh presents Gorbachev with the threat of the eruption of the kind of violence which killed 91 people last year.

Local officials said factories in the capital, Stepanakert, remained paralysed by a strike begun more than two weeks ago by Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenian

majority to demand the transfer of the region from Azerbaijan to Armenia.

Some 25,000 Armenians backing their demands and calling for a special session of the republic's parliament flocked onto the streets of the Armenian capital, Yerevan, on Wednesday and Thursday, a journalist at the Armenian news agency said.

An aide to Arkady Volsky, head of a commission set up in January to take over local government in Nagorno-Karabakh, said Gorbachev would meet a delegation from the region in the next few days.

However, with the Kremlin already having made clear its refusal to redraw the boundaries, it is difficult to see what Gor-

bachev can offer the Armenians, who show no signs of abandoning their claim on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Allegations of high-level corruption by a state prosecutor who helped put Yuri Churbanov, son-in-law of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, behind bars in December pose another potential embarrassment for the leadership.

Nikolai Ivanov, an investigator at the Moscow prosecutor general's office, said in a television debate last week that both Ligachev and former politburo member Mikhail Solomentsev were under investigation in a corruption probe.

Both men have denied the

charges, but Ivanov has not retracted his statement, and suspicions are growing of an official cover-up.

"Passions are raging. Could

this be our own Watergate in the making?" said Yegor Yakovlev, editor-in-chief of Moscow News, in the latest edition of the outspoken weekly.

LETTERS

Mediocre

To the Editor:
THE Harlem Globetrotters recently in Amman gave a disappointingly mediocre performance compared with their predecessors of the sixties.

Sadly and in contravention of their expected roles of good will ambassadors, a number of these players that we approached,

rudely and arrogantly rejected our request for autographs at the end of the "show."

It seems a lecture in diplomacy is warranted before these performers are allowed to represent the U.S. abroad.

Amr Haltham Goussons,
The New English School,
Amman.

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Jordanian artists exhibit

Aziz Ammourea exhibits at the National Gallery

By Nelly Lama

AMMAN — An exhibition of paintings by renowned Jordanian artist Aziz Ammourea was inaugurated last week by H.E. Nasouh Al-Majali, the minister of culture standing in for Her Royal Highness Princess Sarwat.

The exhibition that stands in the National Gallery in Jabal Luweibdeh includes a couple of pencil drawings, some water colours and many large oil paintings.

In his pencil drawings, Aziz repeats the motif of a crumpled cloth with soft folds that give gentle transitions in the value scale (dark to light) with few, if any, strong contrasts. Everything falls into an analogous, harmonious, diachromatic layout. This bending and crumpling of surfaces is favoured by the artist and reappears in many of his oil works.

Another pencil sketch depicts a woman leaning backward, eyes closed. Is her swooning back caused by a feeling of relief or that of utter exhaustion? The havoc of the creases and the undulations of calligraphy in the first plane seem to favour the latter.

His oil paintings are abstract studies, mostly in yellow and blue, where the major shapes are cut off, some overlap, creating interesting effects and transparencies, while others lie side by side, sometimes leaving deep crevices between them. Calligraphy covers most surfaces progressing from an almost transparent existence on the sides and swelling out into clear intense hues at the centre. These are reiterations of the colours found in the background. Calligraphy is etched out of the wet paint filling in the whole space or being centred within an empty area.

The general composition is borne on structural squares with curved edges some complete and closed, others extend into the frame, thus remaining open. These shapes are framed by tinted contrasts that give them their monumentality. So the general outlook stands in a contrast of open to closed forms and of solid areas v.s. fluid translucent ones.

Some loose brushstrokes done in intense colours seem to be scattered haphazardly on the surface giving it a fragile vitality. But if one comes close to the painting, one finds that they are the foliated extensions of Kufic script.

Although the majority of his work is rendered in flat surfaces, he sometimes makes an attempt at creating volumes by shading a curved area, intensifying its col-

our or casting a white brushstroke across the shape giving it a luminous quality.

Subtle shading and tinting are apparent in some of his compositions (e.g. nr. 25) creating an oblique area, giving the impression that the whole surface is a "pulled textile." Here again calligraphy is centralised and the varied colours and alternating values get more intense as they arrive to the centre, stressing the verticality and the softer horizontality of the calligraphy where all else is round.

"Sculptural Composition" is another work where the cloth falls onto the centre of the surface covering about two thirds of it. It is shaded with pastel pink and blue and falls short of a couple of figures painted in the round, casting shadows of intense orange. Although the colours here are muted by white, some patches seem to escape with full clarity. The three dimensional human forms are wriggling in a foetal position as if emitting moans of pain.

This pain is recurrent in another painting called "After The Raid." A couple of sad faces are painted in blue and brown with banded heads and closed eyelids. One is upright while the other only partially appears as he stoops behind him as if hiding from view. The white tinting and the almost diachromatic rendering adds to the drama of the situation. Painted brushstrokes erase the soft outline of the forms creating a thorny but hazy effect reminiscent of the style of Francis Bacon, the subject being no less morbid than his.

"Composition I" shows a number of cushions set beneath a windblown transparent curtain dancing with the breeze in an almost futuristic approach. Very interesting transparencies are seen through the curtain and the window.

Freedom

Among his water colours is "The Martyrs' Monument." A torso with outstretched arms and legs cut off by the frame. Soft shading of the pectoral muscles reminds us of the former figurative style of Aziz Ammourea. The torso overlaps a green space filled with orange calligraphy. The same reappears on the centre of the chest getting most intense around the heart area giving the impression of a bleeding wound; seeing it close up it spells freedom.

"To Hanyia" is a watercolour

homage to the first martyr of the Intifada. It portrays a young girl looking through a transparent veil. Her empty look goes into oblivion and reminds us of Greek mortuary relief sculpture where the deceased is portrayed looking blankly away. A Koranic verse pertaining to martyrdom appears below with Aziz's typical transparencies and overlapping of shapes using the prevalent colours and a mixture of both.

"The explosion of stones" uses the same method of transparency and overlapping of colours creating great rhythms with the interplay of soft and intense colours as well as with fluid and pointed shapes.

In most of his watercolours, faces appear and reappear showing his great command of anatomy. But it is in his transparencies, in his creation of reflections with a variety of colours or with lighter delineation of the object that he excels; also in maintaining the balance of some of the most unlikely shapes. As for his mastery of calligraphy it is seen in the ease in which he handles the different styles whether Kufic, Thuluth or the modern rigid geometric style; with them all he creates both decorative and structural rhythms.

In the past, Aziz was better known for his realistic figurative style. His more or less classical portraits bedeck many households in Jordan. Until 1984 he was working with this figurative style and started incorporating

some calligraphy into his painting.

During 1985-86 he stuck solely to calligraphy working mostly with abstract spaces.

His major aim is to be able to fully master the art of calligraphy in order to reintroduce the human figure into it. "It might take me a good four or five years to do that," he explained.

The Syrian uncle

Born in Aydom near Irbid, Aziz has been drawing since early childhood. His uncle was a portrait artist who lived in Syria. Every time Aziz visited him, the uncle would teach him the rudiments of portrait painting. "It was mostly technique that he taught me," Aziz recounts, "the way to draw three dimensional faces that looked very much like photography. This, of course, stood in my way when I was at university, and I had to learn how to loosen up. But my hand was quite fluid and flexible, a question of habit."

Having finished secondary school in Irbid, Aziz moved on to the Teacher's College in the West Bank and from there came back to work in the audio-visual section of the ministry of education. It dealt mostly with illustration, so he was not too far off from art.

In 1966, Aziz received a scholarship to the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad. He talks proudly of his teachers, famous artists acknowledged as masters by the whole Arab world. Among them

Fa'ek Hassan, the sculptor Mohammad Ghani, Qutham Heider, Ismail Al Sheikhli, the Yugoslav Lasezky to whom he owes his knowledge of the elements of aesthetics, Artmovsky a Polish printmaker now back in Warsaw and finally Valentinos, the ceramist who also taught Mahmoud Taha.

In 1980, Aziz was granted, by the University of Yarmouk, a scholarship to the Pratt Institute of Art in New York where he was awarded his Master of Fine Arts degree in February 1983.

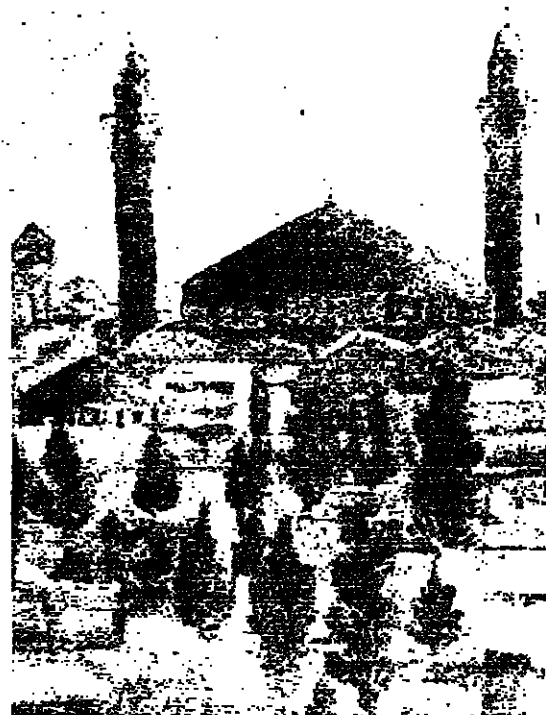
He has, since, worked as assistant professor of art in the University of Yarmouk teaching, for the last six years, twelve credit hours of painting and 2 courses of drawing per semester.

When asked why his graduating students are so impressed by him and mention him continuously he answered "It is because I talk with passion, because of my faithfulness. I live with them all the time, I do not let them float by themselves. I stress the academic point of view, I believe in the visual method. They should learn to draw from a model, to cover the human figure, landscape and still life, to study light and shade, composition and all that lies behind the surface."

He is presently thinking of taking a sabbatical and travelling around to see where life takes him. Let us hope for the best for our cherished Jordanian artist, Aziz Ammourea. His exhibition will go on until the 25th of May.



The Dream



King Abdullah Mosque

Diana Sham'onki: From the fragile to the monumental, with a touch of nobility

By Nelly Lama

AMMAN — Diana Sham'onki is a popular Jordanian artist who is known for her hard work and her generous output as well as for her romanticising bedouin faces and Jordanian landscapes.

Diana studied art with Spanish artist Amamdi.

"He used to teach us to paint in a rather abstract way. When he drew Salk in cubes, we were wondering how he dared to do that." With time Diana grew to realise the importance of volumes in painting and has acquired, lately, a good sense for abstraction. She stylises her forms applying rough brushstrokes omitting facial features, caring mostly for shadows and volumes.

In her exhibition at the Petra Gallery which opened the 18th of May continues until the 25th, Diana presents four different subjects. Human figures, urban and rural landscapes as well as still lifes.

Her portraits are full of strength. In "Man from Arabia," his headress (Hatta) forms strong white stripes that fall in a strong diagonal thrust down the canvas while the dagger belt on his other shoulder forms a complementary diagonal. The thickly outlined face looks away valiantly. It is this "heroic" countenance that Diana adds to her men, that bears witness to their nobility. "The Sheikh," is another strong male portrait that has acquired a "symbolist" character because of its bluish tones, and orange contrasts.

"Tareq" is a portrait of a young peasant girl with a kuffiah leaning to one side forming an asymmetrical composition crowned with a lovely colour scheme of deep blues and mauve. Rather than portray a person, this painting sets a mood.

Another young lady with a flowery dress and a matching turban holds her head up proudly, with a suggestive smile. The green in the background (symbol of youth and vitality) reappears within her transparent skin, while pinks and violets are muted by a white overday.

"Modern Look" depicts a contemporary lady with permed hair, her eyes challenging. The deep green of her clothes anchors the composition, bearing the weight of the tilted head and the floating hair.

How close, how far

In "Lost Horizons," an entire feminine figure is seen from behind, standing on the summit of a mountain, looking on to a vast landscape. It brings to mind the heavy feeling that one experiences standing on the mountain-tops that overlook Jerusalem, the feeling of "how close yet how far." The solitary figure stands solid against the hazy horizon. Analogous colours convey a mood of melancholy.

"Our Gracious Friend" portrays a light-eyed peasant youth with a transcendental piercing look, awe-inspiring, yet suggestive of infinite humility.

"The dream" is a symbolist rendering of an idea (known as Ideism). Muted blues, pinks and oranges help depict the dream state. Stylised girls dressed in white pick oranges from trees.

Another painting showing a state of mind is one bearing no title. A multitude of youthful

faces look up as if hoping to find an answer for their universal problems. This allows a great opportunity for foreshortening in the faces, some faces are stylised and depict shadows and eyes only. The rhythm conveyed by their alternating green and yellow shirts is as strong as that of a percussion instrument, conveying the urgency of their problem.

As for her urban landscapes, they bear the same solemnity, if not the same drama that we find in the faces.

"Dawn Prayer" shows the dark silhouette of the King Abdullah Mosque and other buildings with the last vestiges of light behind them, reappearing among the dark trees. It is a wonderful portrayal of dusk. The heaviness of the great dome is alleviated by smaller rhythms of domes, trees and roofs that gradually bring us forward. Another version depicts the same mosque in the rain; it is atmospheric and monochromatic.

Diana paints two other sunset paintings. One depicts dark movement trees with strong shadows and a fiery orange sky in the background. Another "Palm sunset" bears the same colours yet conveys a contrasting mood of calm because of the almost symmetrical balance of the palm trees that flank a patch of light in the centre of the orange sky.

"Dusk" is an almost photographic study of that moment when the sun has set while the volumes of houses are still clearly apparent. To be able to maintain clarity in such a dark painting and not go muddy is proof of the mastery of the artist in handling paints. Anyone who knows Diana understands that art to her is her very existence. Her house is full to the brim with paintings she collected from fellow artists, as well as her own. Even her two young daughters have tried their hand at art and have come up with fine and sensitive works.

Jerusalem landscapes

In "Jerusalem Landscape" repetitions rhythms fill the format to its extent, leaving only a small area of sky above. This compression of domes, houses and windows is interspersed with palm and cypress trees, a naive but strong rendering with the predominance of a blue colour scheme.

In another the trees move up in a serpentine ascent, typical of those of the mount of lives and the "tour" area. "My beloved Jerusalem," Diana exclaims, "I love to paint it!" Diana's rural landscapes include many versions of "Qal'at Al Rabad" seen at dawn and at dusk.

A small blue rendering is stylised almost into pure abstraction. Volumes, centralised and strong, are depicted with dark blues and white tints. The landscape extends in lilac tones into the horizon.

Another version, slightly larger, acquires deep green tones with somber black shading picked up by the dark clouds in the sky.

Yet another version is done in green, turquoise and pink overtones, few spots of orange highlights are found in the landscape. Here the volumes of the fort are less meaningful but the silhouette is more in focus. The whole atmosphere is light and reminds us of springtime.

Diana also paints fragile outdoor scenes within a number of tiny formats that could be collected as a set. One such collection represents "Zaie," small-scale frames contain one or two trees done with unsurpassed fragility, colour harmony and a variety of brushstrokes allowing sgraffito, or scratching out, which is rendered vividly yet minutely to depict the foliage of the trees.

"After the Harvest" is a simple yellow landscape with few trees in the background. A very gentle work in spite of the strong blue sky.

Diana also paints bouquets mostly in violets and pinks, set against a blue/green background. They are very impressionistic and vivacious.

She maintains the volumes of petals with both the brushwork and tonal modulations.

Diana shows in this exhibition all the colours of womanhood. Charm, strength, faith, sensitivity to nature and to light effects, romanticism, a sense of melodrama and a state of dream.

Her paintings bear within them a noble touch that gives the subject more than mere physical existence.

Iceland says whales must be hunted

By Alan Elmer

REYKJAVIK — While many people regard the whale as a conservationist symbol and are aghast at the idea of killing the giant mammals, Iceland says some should be hunted to preserve the balance of the sea.

Although commercial whaling was banned by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 1986, Iceland plans to argue at an IWC scientific meeting in San Diego next week that revoking the ban to allow limited hunting is environmentally essential. "As long as mankind is utilising the resources of the ocean, it is necessary to hunt limited numbers of whales, seals and other sea mammals," said Iceland's Fishing Minister Halldor Asgrimsson.

"Whales are part of the ecological balance. Of course, we have to save the whale, but the best way to preserve the stocks is to utilise them in a cautious way," he told reporters.

Icelanders have been catching whales since Viking times. Today they rarely talk of killing or hunting whales, preferring to "harvest" or "utilise" their prey. Asgrimsson said a call by the environmental group Greenpeace to boycott Iceland's fish because of its stance on whaling had hurt exports, especially to the United States and West Germany.

But Iceland insists most whale species do not need saving, with numbers of some types higher than for many decades and still growing rapidly. Iceland has been running a

comprehensive research programme on the current state of whale stocks around its coasts to back up its position.

"Our preliminary findings tell us that the minke whale is particularly abundant. We have counted 20,000 in the Iceland area and it is clear we can take 100 to 200 a year without harming the stock at all," said Jakob Jakobsson, Director of the Marine Research Institute in Reykjavik.

"We have counted 7,000 fin whales and we think we could continue to take a modest harvest from that species. Other species that were depleted but which have been protected for several years like humpback whales are also recovering."

Though the IWC has expressed doubts about the programme, it has allowed Iceland, as part of its study, to kill 68 fin and 10 sei whales a year. These can be sold for profit but only 49 per cent can be exported. Iceland sends the meat to Japan, while most of the rest is used at home as animal fodder.

Iceland feels strongly about the issue because it is almost totally dependent on the sea for its well-being. Around 70 per cent of foreign currency earnings come from fishing.

And whales eat fish. A minke whale can eat 20,000 tonnes of fish a year.

The catch of the entire Iceland fishing fleet is limited to 40,000 tonnes.

Increased consumption

"Why should we work so hard in trying to stop fishermen catch-

ing more fish but not try to control the increased consumption of marine mammals?" said Asgrimsson.

"Sure whales have rights but the fishermen and people of Iceland have rights too," he said.

He said whaling was no longer economically important for Iceland in itself — the old whaling communities had found other means of support and few Icelanders had a taste for whale meat.

Icelanders say the IWC has neglected its original mandate — to control and regulate whale hunting while preserving stocks — and become a Whale Protection Agency. Asgrimsson issued a thinly-veiled threat that if this trend continued, Iceland might be forced to quit the organisation.

"If the IWC does not work on the basis of its convention, we have nothing to do there. If it turns into an organ of protection, I think it will just blow up," he said.

Jakobsson was in the United States last October when three grey whales were caught in the ice off Alaska.

He regarded the U.S.-Soviet effort to free the whales and the ensuing media attention as ridiculous.

"Grey whales have not been as numerous as they are today for a century but nobody dared say that," he said.

"The IWC doesn't seem able to take objective decisions any more. Their thinking seems to be that we should never kill a whale because they are lovable creatures," he said.

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Dubai, the Hong Kong of the Gulf

Iran challenges Dubai

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran plans to turn its southern port of Chabahar into a free port that will challenge Dubai, the Hong Kong of the Gulf.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) monitored in Nicosia, quoted the governor of Sistan-Baluchistan province as saying the move would save precious foreign exchange for Iran by cutting out middlemen in Dubai, the main regional export centre for Iranian goods.

Chabahar, about 130 kilometres west of the Pakistan border, lies on the coastline of the Gulf of Oman.

IRNA said the Iranian cabinet approved the plan to turn Chabahar into a free port last March. It said that harbour facilities have been upgraded along with road links to make it one of Iran's major ports.

By turning Chabahar into a free port, the government hopes to turn it into a kind of giant supermarket, boosting revenue that currently is going to Dubai.

In Chabahar, the government plans to set up facilities similar to those in Dubai, and retain the value-added profit of storage, packing and loading, all of which amounts to precious dollars.

The government is desperately seeking to boost non-oil exports, which account for less than 10 per cent of Iran's foreign currency earnings, to help in its post-war reconstruction and lessen its dependency on oil.

Dubai's merchants — many of them of Iranian origin — have been doing a thriving business with Iran, either on a cash basis or through businessmen who pay in dollars from accounts outside Iran to sidestep tight foreign exchange controls.

In the first quarter of 1987, the latest period for which figures are available, Dubai registered a record \$118 million worth of re-exports to Iran.

Fresh fruit from Iran, worth \$13 million a month, was shipped through Dubai, according to customs statistics. The produce was then reexported through Dubai around the Gulf states.

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Figures on trade through Dubai were undoubtedly inflated during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, when shortages rampant in Iran were met by trade, often illegal, with Dubai. Tehran usually turned a blind eye to that activity.

The war made shipping directly to Iran too risky and a hefty portion of Iran's imports are shipped to Dubai and reexported from there because merchants have easy access to credit lines and commercial connection the Iranians did not have.

Iranians packed airliners to fly to Dubai to buy refrigerators, video cassette recorders, television sets, washing machines, jeans and other items in short supply at home, then fly back to resell on the black market at hefty profits.

In 1985 Iranian exports to or through Dubai totalled more than \$67 million.

Iran-China metal trade to reach \$500 million

In another area, Iranian trade with China in minerals and metals, currently \$50 million annually, will increase ten-fold as joint

projects get underway, Tehran television has reported.

The broadcast, also monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi as saying that contracts signed between the two countries envisage that trade in mined goods will rise to \$500 million.

However, the report did not indicate a time frame for reaching that figure.

Iran's President Ali Khamenei last week returned from a much-publicised, six-day visit to China, during which the two countries pledged to expand trade and upgrade cooperation.

China seeks to benefit from a resurgence of revolutionary puritanism and anti-Western sentiment in Iran.

Iran badly needs foreign expertise for reconstruction projects. But with Tehran's reluctance to deal with the West, Iran is moving more and more towards cooperation and trade with the non-Western industrialised nations, such as China, Japan, the two Koreas, the Soviet Union and the East Bloc countries.

Analysts estimate that Iran will have to spend \$300 billion to \$500 billion to rebuild large sectors of its industries devastated in the war.

Foreign banks convert S. African loans to long-term credits

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's foreign creditor banks have converted about \$2 billion of short-term debt into long-term loans, apparently softening their stance on lending to Pretoria.

Reserve Bank officials said the banks had converted their loans under an exit clause provided for in a three-year debt rescheduling accord hammered out between Pretoria and its 34 major creditor banks in March 1987.

"I can confirm that a large number of creditor banks have made use of this option and that the amount of short-term debt

which will have to be renegotiated is now substantially less," said Jan Lombard, senior deputy governor of the Reserve Bank.

The banks' move could provoke criticism from anti-apartheid lobbies, particularly in the United States, which are pressing them to call in their loans.

The loan conversions mean that some major British, U.S., Swiss and German creditor banks will not have to negotiate with Pretoria when the current rescheduling pact expires in mid-1990.

The long-term debts are due to be fully repaid by 1997, ending the creditor banks' lending to South Africa.

ACC industry chiefs open meeting in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Heads of chambers of industry in Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen opened a two-day meeting here Sunday to discuss means of overcoming problems hindering industrial growth in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Innab opened the meeting which will review working papers dealing with industrial integration, unification of laws and legislations governing industry and industrial activities, launching joint industrial ventures within the ACC countries and other related topics.

Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalidoun Abu Hassan delivered an address calling for joint action to give momentum to industrial production based on sound foundation. The ACC chambers of industry, he said, are bound to work together to help ensure food security, the transfer of modern technology and to enhance the basis of industry.

This, he noted, can only be achieved within a framework of coordination and in a manner that would ensure the optimum and most ideal exploitation of available resources.

Data bank

The first session, later, discussed the Egyptian working paper

which called for the establishment of a data bank to provide information on the ACC industrial situation and to help carry out an industrial sectoral study in the four countries to pave the ground for integration.

The paper also proposed the establishment of an industrial investment company to take charge of industrial projects in these countries and to pool these countries' industrial expertise.

Unifications

The Iraqi paper suggested unifying regulations and laws governing industrial activities carried out by the private sectors in the ACC states so as to facilitate the flow of expertise and draw materials and to streamline the four countries' positions at local and international conferences.

The Iraqi paper also suggested unifying specifications and measurements for various industrial products and coordinating the exchange of information on industry among the four states.

Common council

The Yemeni paper called for the establishment of a unified council for the ACC chambers of industry and that membership in the council should be left open.

Integration

The Jordanian paper called for



Heads of chambers of industry in Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen meet in Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

an overall integration between the ACC states in industry, agriculture, transport, telecommunications, education, culture, information, scientific and technological research, social, health, tourism, transport and labour fields.

The Jordanian paper also called on industrial authorities to unify legislations and regulations on industrial concerns and to lay

down the basis for the exchange of industrial information among these countries.

Furthermore, the Jordanian paper called for organising facilities for settling payments for trade and measures for providing protection for the ACC industrial products in the face of foreign competition.

The paper urged ACC cooperation in marketing industrial products and in organising trade

and industrial fairs in Arab and foreign countries to help achieve that goal.

The industry chiefs complained of high production costs, under-use of manufacturing capacity, over-regulation and bad management, according to Reuters.

A conference source said the gathering was expected to recommend a unified chamber of commerce and removal of restrictions on capital flows.

Sky Television sues Disney

LOS ANGELES (R) — Media baron Rupert Murdoch marched into battle with the "magic kingdom" last week, suing Walt Disney Co for \$1.5 billion for backing out of an agreement to operate Cable Television channels in Britain.

Sky Television, the satellite television unit of Murdoch's News International PLC, agreed in November with Disney on joint operation of two cable channels that would feature six hours a day of the famous studio's programming.

One of the channels, the Disney channel, was due to begin broadcasting later this year and would be the first outlet on Cable Television for the studio outside North America.

But in a breach-of-contract suit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, Sky Television claimed the studio had refused to start up the Disney channel or reimburse Sky Television's costs. Disney also is alleged to have threatened to terminate the deal if it did not get better terms.

"While defendants spend millions to create the appearance that they are honest and wholesome and the Disney name stands for such qualities, the fact is that the defendants' common pattern is to ignore and deny their agreements and to use economic leverage and coercive power to exact unjust concessions," the suit said.

The lawsuit seeks \$500 million in compensatory damages and \$1 billion in punitive damages "in light of defendant's massive wealth and the aggravated nature of their conduct."

Disney recently reported record second-quarter earnings of \$149 million on sales of \$1.04

billion. Sky Television also asked for an injunction preventing Disney granting permission to anyone other than the satellite station to use Disney programming in Britain.

"Disney replied in a statement: 'We have great regard for Mr. Murdoch and the accomplishment of his organisations. But we are surprised at this suit, which has absolutely no merit.'"

In a separate move, Murdoch and Robert Maxwell joined forces with a five-year deal linking satellite and Cable Television.

The multi-million-pound sterling deal means Murdoch will use Maxwell's cable T.V. network to take Sky Television into more homes from next month.

The contract wins 50,000 more customers for the four-channel Sky Television at a time of slow business and provides a greater

range of programmes on Cable Television, Britain's largest cable operator.

"I know the rivalry between Murdoch and Maxwell is supposed to be intense," Maxwell told reporters after signing the deal with Sky Executive Chairman Andrew Neil.

"But here is an example where we have chosen Murdoch because Sky is ready, willing and able to serve the customers who belong to our system," the chairman of Maxwell Entertainment added.

Maxwell already carries Sky's family entertainment channel under another deal. From June 1, Sky movies and part of Sky's news and sport services will also be fed via the cable network.

Maxwell's cable network can potentially feed into about one million homes, providing a big new customer pool for Sky. The price to Sky was "several mil-

lions," Maxwell said.

The agreement is a boost for Sky, which has seen slack sales of receiver dishes since its February launch.

Sky won the Maxwell deal over British Satellite Broadcasting, which is due to launch a three-channel rival service later this year.

Neil said Sky was planning to launch a new movie pay channel following the collapse of the deal with Disney to operate Cable Television channels in Britain.

The original deal was for joint operation of a Sky movie channel and a Disney film channel which was to have begun broadcasting later this year.

Now Sky is launching a second movie channel of its own after signing a deal with an unnamed Hollywood film studio which will provide access to its library, Neil said. The new channel is due go on the air in the autumn.

Foreign cigarettes threaten Turkish tobacco industry

IZMIR (R) — A peasant woman picks green tobacco leaves in a field damp with dew ready for her sons to dry them in the sun and her husband to bale them for an eager market.

Some 500,000 similar families, mainly along the Aegean coast, make a living by selling the raw material for pungent and acrid oriental tobacco, a Turkish hallmark for many decades.

But there are fears that the great days of the Turkish tobacco industry may be numbered following an influx of foreign brands since 1984 when a cigarette import ban was lifted.

Exports from Turkey, the world's sixth largest producer with an annual 180 million kilograms after China, the United States, India, Brazil and the Soviet Union, totalled \$255.7 million last year, down from \$276 million the previous year.

In the Aegean port city of

Izmir, local tobacco merchants form up to 70 per cent of total bank portfolios. The banks also do business with foreign makers from sleek offices in the city.

But this is offset by huge street advertisements extolling the virtues of foreign brands whose taste evidently appeals to many people from taxi drivers to youths in bars.

The United States is the major importer of Turkish tobacco, with a 70 per cent stake in total exports, followed by Japan, West Germany and Hungary.

Philip Morris of the United

States is the biggest buyer of Turkish tobacco. Other U.S. as well as British and Japanese firms are also in the market.

"Philip Morris is very much interested and committed to the Turkish tobacco market," Mark Duerst, general manager of Epsas A.S., the local Philip Morris representative, told Reuters.

But local tobacco traders are annoyed that Turkey pays out \$160 million a year for foreign cigarettes, some blended with up to 20 per cent local tobacco, to satisfy the craving of a growing number of the country's 54 million people.

TO THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY IN JORDAN

All the Brazilian citizens living in Jordan, aged 16 or more, bearers of valid Brazilian passports, are requested to report to the Brazilian Embassy, Consular section, as soon as possible, up to the end of May, in order to be registered in a cadaster to be able to vote at the Embassy for the coming presidential elections in Brazil.

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Moscow expels eight Britons

LONDON (R) — Britain said Sunday it regretted the Soviet Union's expulsion of 11 Britons but refused to say whether it planned any further diplomatic actions against Moscow.

The British Foreign Office announced that it had summoned Soviet Ambassador Leonid Zamyatin Friday evening to tell him that eight Soviet diplomats and three journalists were being told to leave the country within 14 days. Three others currently out of the country would not be allowed back.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Moscow had retaliated by expelling 11 Britons. Three British diplomats who had already left the Soviet Union were declared *persona non grata*.

"This is particularly regrettable at a moment when Anglo-Soviet relations were better than at any time in the past," he said.

He said the Soviet citizens were expelled for activities "incompatible with their status" — usual diplomatic parlance for espionage.

Asked if Britain was considering further expulsions of Soviet officials in retaliation, he replied: "Let's take this one stage at a time. We are where we are and let's look at it that way."

Britain had decided not to announce the expulsion of Soviet citizens Friday, possibly in the hope of avoiding a round of retaliatory actions. But Sunday's Soviet measures clearly prompted a change of policy.

In the early 1970s Britain expelled over a hundred Soviet citizens, charging that Moscow was using its embassy, its trade delegation and press offices for widespread espionage.

London's relations with Moscow warmed considerably last month with the visit of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Britain. He held talks with Prime

Minister Margaret Thatcher and had lunch with Queen Elizabeth.

At the end of his visit, lauded by British officials as a breakthrough in relations between the two countries, Gorbachev invited the queen to visit the Soviet Union.

But the issue of intelligence activities has been overshadowing bilateral relations for several months.

The security services have been pressing hard for expulsions of Soviet diplomats they believe are engaged in espionage.

Security officials have said the KGB intelligence agency and its military counterpart, the GRU, have been building up their strength here steadily in the last three years.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe used a speech in Munich, West Germany, early this year to accuse Moscow of stepping up its espionage activity despite the general warming in East-West relations.

Security officials in London believe the KGB has restored its presence here to about 60 per cent of its level before the defection of its "resident" top agent Oleg Gordievski in 1985.

Gordievski's defection dealt a major blow to the KGB's operations in the West, exposing key agents in major capitals.

"That was a shattering blow for the KGB. It blew the lid on operations all over the world, and it says something for the organisation that it has been able to recover to its present levels," Conservative Member of Parliament and espionage expert Rupert Allason told Reuters.



Chinese policemen take a break on the steps of the Great Hall of the People in the standoff with protesters in Tiananmen Square.

Chinese protesters still profess communism

By Robert Evans
Reuters

PEKING — "What we want is to make communism good and perfect. We don't think the government we've got can do that and that's why we want it to go."

Zhen Ying, a 20-year-old would-be journalist from the city of Hefei, seemed to sum up the mood of the vast throngs of students and workers on Peking's Tiananmen Square on one of the most dramatic weekends in China's modern history.

"We think Marxism is right. We are happy that change is coming in the Soviet Union," said Zhen, and boys and girls in their late teens with him shouted their agreement.

Young couples strolled by

hand-in-hand and parents with small children licking ice-cream sticks in the hot sunshine mingled with the protesters in a display of total unconcern at a government declaration of martial law in central Peking.

The government has massed troops, some backed by armour, on the outskirts of the capital but has said they would not be used against students who have spearheaded the eight days of protests in the capital.

The slightly-built Zhen, a thin red-head band declaring "Democracy and Freedom or Death" around his forehead, briefly broke off the exposition of his philosophy as a military helicopter clattered past overhead.

"Cowards, come down and talk," he and the students on the

steps of the Chinese Revolution Museum yelled, shaking their fists skywards as the craft swirled by behind a black-and-white flag of protest atop the building's pillared portals.

Then he turned back with a grin. "They are just checking to see how many people are still here. They don't frighten us," he said, chuckling.

The language was that of student revolutionaries the world over, but Zhen and his colleagues denied they were part of a new revolutionary movement.

And for a visitor from Moscow, his phrasing was very similar to that of Soviet reformists from Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev downwards who also profess dedication to perfecting communism.

"We want freedom, democracy and a free press. We should be able to say what we think, otherwise the corrupt bureaucrats will be able to continue running the country as they like," he said.

But amazingly Zhen, who said he and his fellow students from Hefei had stood in a packed train for 21 hours to travel the some 800 kilometres north to Peking to join the protest, also expressed admiration for late Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung.

"He was a great leader. He turned old China into modern China," he said of the man who in a power struggle with reformist opponents in the mid-1960s launched the "Cultural Revolution" which brought widespread death and destruction for almost a decade.

"Yes, perhaps millions died then," said Zhen who appeared to have only a confused idea of what happened to his country only a generation back.

"Mao made mistakes. He was human. All leaders make mistakes."

From the other end of the square, through the sea of multi-coloured banners, Mao's portrait gazed down unsmilingly in the hot sunshine from above the Gate of Heavenly Peace at the entrance into the ancient Forbidden City.

And from the avenue of Heavenly Peace, also totally controlled by the students and workers, could be heard the strains of another group of demonstrators singing the "Internationale", the international communist anthem.

Soviets rush to Turkey to reclaim MiG-29

ANKARA (R) — The Soviet air force has rushed a pilot and technicians to an airport in Turkey, hoping to whisk away a frontline MiG fighter exposed to Western intelligence by a wounded defector.

It was not immediately known whether the Soviets hoped to patch up the MiG-29 and fly it back under its own steam or ferry it home in a larger aircraft.

The defector pilot, Captain Alexander Zuyev, 27, landed at the Black Sea city of Trabzon Saturday with a bullet wound in his right arm and bullet holes in the 2,335 kilometres-per-hour warplane's wings.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said he shot and wounded a sentry at an airfield near the Georgian town of Tskhakaya before seizing the fighter.

Within hours, a Soviet military transport was on its way to Trabzon, but was turned back by Turkish fighters which scrambled when it entered Turkish airspace, according to military sources.

An Ilyushin-76 transport was eventually allowed into Trabzon Sunday. An airport official, who asked not to be named told Reuters that "if formalities are completed, the MiG will leave today."

Zuyev, 27, has sought asylum in the United States. Turkey, a member of the West's North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance, says the request will be passed on unless Moscow produces evidence that the pilot was a criminal.

According to TASS the defector had been grounded for health reasons.

Operational since early 1985, it is believed to form the main air strike force along the 619-kilometre border with Turkey and has been sold to India, Iraq and Syria.

Turkish officials said the MiG would be returned to the Soviet Union but its armaments would be sent back separately.

Western military sources said Zuyev landed his plane at Trabzon after a daring low-level flight of about 250 kilometres, mainly over the Black Sea where movements are closely monitored by both sides.

The mass-circulation daily Hurriyet said there were four missiles on the plane and that experts had inspected the plane, parked alone near buildings at the civilian airport in Trabzon, 760 kilometres northeast of Ankara.

Spanish cooking oil verdict shocks tragedy survivors

MADRID (R) — A Spanish court has enraged survivors of a mass food poisoning, acquitting most of 37 people accused of selling lethal cooking oil and handing out what the survivors saw as lenient prison sentences to the others.

Lawyers acting for the survivors and relatives of victims of the 1981 tragedy, in which up to 650 people died and 25,000 were injured, said they would appeal to the supreme court against the verdict.

The verdict of the three-judge court, read out in Madrid Saturday, ended a trial which lasted 15 months and

was dubbed "the trial of the century" in Spain.

"It's incomprehensible," lawyer Francisco Saugallo said of the verdict. "It's a pretty benign sentence."

Some of the emaciated, deformed and crippled survivors who packed a Madrid music hall to hear the verdict broke down in tears at the end of the seven-hour reading.

Others shouted abuse at the judges and at their lawyers, and hurled stones at riot police and at a bus taking defendants away.

The court jailed three oil

years. It gave 10 others prison sentences ranging from two months to four years and acquitted the other 24 accused.

State Prosecutor Eduardo Fungairin had requested prison sentences of more than 60,000 years against eight defendants — although 30 years is the maximum that can be served under Spanish law — and lesser terms against another 19.

"Their (the survivors') reaction is very understandable, very human," Fungairin told reporters. "The verdict is not bad but it could have been better."

The court ended eight years of controversy over the cause of the previously unknown disease, rejecting defendants' arguments that it was caused by pesticides used on tomatoes and ruling it could be traced to industrial oil passed off as olive oil.

The government, keen to protect domestic cooking oil producers from foreign competition, had demanded that importers dye rapeseed oil to make it improper for human consumption.

The merchants sold imported rapeseed oil which had been dyed with aniline although they

knew aniline could be poisonous, the court said.

But although some of the accused were sentenced for harming public health, fraud and professional negligence, it was not proven that they deliberately caused deaths, the court said.

The court's announcement of compensation — \$122,000 for each death and between \$200,000 and \$730,000 for those permanently disabled — provoked only anger among the survivors.

"It's not more money we want. It's heavier sentences," a man shouted.

Enrile challenges Aquino on Marcos

MANILA (Agencies) — Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said Sunday that President Corason Aquino should display leadership by allowing ailing former President Ferdinand Marcos to return to die in his homeland.

Enrile, a former defence minister instrumental in Marcos' 1986 ouster from power, made the statement to reporters as about 4,000 delegates met to revive the Nacionalista Party as a major opposition force to Aquino.

The convention named Vice President Salvador Laurel as party president, Enrile as secretary-general and former Marcos Labour Minister Blas Ople as executive vice president by

acclamation. "We believe that Marcos should be allowed to come back," Enrile said. "There is no reason why he should be deprived of his right to come home at this time of his life. He's so ill. How can he destabilise the country?"

In Honolulu Marcos remained in very critical condition with kidney failure and a massive infection but was said to be more alert.

The latest medical report on Marcos, issued by St. Francis Hospital, said he could respond to doctors' directions.

Marcos, in hospital since mid-January for treatment of several serious medical problems, suf-



Juan Ponce Enrile feared kidney failure on Thursday. His doctors connected him to a blood-cleansing haemodialysis machine and put him on the critical list.

Alfonsin weighing early transition

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Raul Alfonsin Saturday gave the first hint that he might hand over power to President-elect Carlos Menem before the scheduled date of Dec. 10 because of the country's economic problems.

"The people are suffering... the consequences of a sharpening economic crisis caused by the uncertainty of present, unprecedented circumstances. The president is thus considering the possibility of bringing the assumption of the president-elect," Alfonsin's spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez said.

Under the Argentine constitution, Alfonsin, who took power

from a military government Dec. 10, 1983, should serve a six-year term. Politicians have said there were several ways to get round this obstacle if Alfonsin decided to step down early.

Menem, the opposition Peronist Party leader who won a landslide victory in last Sunday's elections, said he would accept an early handover if all sectors of the community were in agreement.

"The bringing forward depends on the government. If the present authorities take a decision and the people request it, I accept the possibility," he told the official Telam news agency, adding that June 20, July 9 and Oct. 12, were possible dates.

Von Weizsaecker unopposed for second term as president

By Carol J. Williams
The Associated Press

BONN — With his patrician lineage and eloquent oratory, Richard von Weizsaecker embodies the German ideal of a statesman.

So great is his popularity that von Weizsaecker is running unopposed for a second five-year term as president of West Germany in balloting Tuesday by the federal convention in Bonn.

Testifying to his standing, von Weizsaecker drew an approval rating of 85 per cent in a recent public survey. No other West German politician comes close to this figure.

Each of the five political parties represented in the federal parliament is entitled to nominate a presidential candidate, but for the first time in the nation's 40-year history the vote will be uncontested.

Von Weizsaecker, a member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and a former mayor of West Berlin, was endorsed by all but the far-left Greens Party.

Unusual unity

The unusual unity among the diverse and fractious political parties reflects the respect earned by the white-haired, 69-year-old

von Weizsaecker during his first term as president.

While avoiding partisan politics, von Weizsaecker has transformed the mostly ceremonial office into an influential post of elder statesman and curator of a national conscience.

His articulate address on the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II won praise worldwide as an effort to help fellow Germans come to terms with the Nazi era.

"Guilt is, like innocence, not collective, but personal," the president said. "All of us, whether guilty in not, whether young or old, must accept the past. We are all affected by its consequences and liable for it."

Mindful that most West Germans were young people during the Nazi era or born after World War II, von Weizsaecker has also called for a fair assessment of the post-war nation.

Chapters of his own past were a personal burden that he managed to transcend in a distinguished career.

Born in Stuttgart April 15, 1920, to a titled family of intellectuals, von Weizsaecker began his university studies in 1937 at Oxford, where he perfected his English. The following year, he returned home and joined the German army.

He marched into Poland with his infantry regiment on Sept. 1,

1938, the first day of World War II. A brother died in the German invasion. Von Weizsaecker continued to serve until the German capitulation May 8, 1945.

After resuming his law studies, he served as a defence attorney for his father, Ernst von Weizsaecker, who was sentenced at the 1947 Nuremberg trials to eight years in prison for his role as a deputy foreign minister in the Nazi government.

While von Weizsaecker is generally revered by West Germans, critics can be found at both political extremes.

The federal convention which elects the president is made up of the 519 federal parliament members and an equal number of delegates from the 11 state legislatures.

Model for the young

An avid sportsman frequently pictured skiing or mountain-climbing, von Weizsaecker is regarded as a model for young Germans, according to Edgar Piel of the Institute for Opinion Research in Allensbach.

"There is a certain tendency to depict the family as a holdover from the days of a royalty," Piel said of the Weizsaegers. "They are identified with this period."

In "The Weizsaegers: History of a German Family," the latest in a spate of books about the president, author Martin Wein



Richard von Weizsaecker

traces the family's rise through six generations of theologians, philosophers and scientists to the current occupant of West Germany's white house, the Villa Hammerschmidt.

The "von" in the family name stems from the title of baron bestowed on his grandfather in 1916 by the royal family of Wuertemberg.

Religion has always played a prominent role in the Weizsaecker family, and the president himself served as head of the German Protestant church in 1964-70 after managerial stints in steel, banking and pharmaceuticals.

He served in the federal parliament from 1969 through his election as mayor of West Berlin, a high-profile post that propelled him into the presidency in 1984.

'Our brother — the Argentine president'

Syrian village jubilant over Menem's victory

By Issam Hamza
Reuters

YABROUD, Syria — A small town in Syria is bursting with pride over the election of Carlos Menem as president of Argentina.

Townfolk avidly followed each twist and turn of the May 14 election on radio news bulletins. Now the town council is planning to name the main street after him.

Yabroud, a mountain town of 45,000 citizens 80 kilometres north of Damascus, counts Menem, who was born and brought up in a country thousands of kilometres away, as its famous son.

"We are very proud of him. He made history for us not only in Yabroud or Syria but in the whole Arab World. It is the first time that a man of Arab origin gains such a victory (in Argentina)," Khaled Menem told Reuters.

Khaled, a cousin, was speaking at the house the president-elect's parents left in 1913.

"My uncle (Menem's father) emigrated to Argentina

in 1913 when Syria was under the Ottoman occupation. Carlos and two other sons, Edmar and Muneer, were born in Argentina. Their mother, Maheeba Aqeel, is also a Syrian from Yabroud," he said.

"The country was suffering a lot from the Ottomans who used to rob the farmers of all their revenues in fees and other taxes. So he thought of leaving for a far place where he could work and depend on himself."

"He went by ship from Beirut to Argentina where he settled in La Rioja, worked in farming and was successful."

Carlos Menem, who is due to take over from Raul Alfonsin Dec. 10, first visited Yabroud in 1964. He and his parents spent five months at the 150-year-old family home and Carlos toured Syria.

"When he came he only had a few words of Arabic. His face used to become red when he failed to say what he wanted in Arabic," Haleemah Menem, another cousin recalled.

Yabroud's mayor, Youssef Al Madoud, said the council

was planning to name the main street after the president-elect. "Everyone here is proud of Carlos. Yabroud's famous son who made history for the town with his victory."

Madoud said one of the streets was already named Argentina in recognition of the country where many townspeople emigrated years ago.

Carlos, whose wife Saleema Juma'a comes from the nearby town of Dhmar, last visited Yabroud in July 1988 when he met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Assad sent Carlos congratulations after his election.

Lu'ai Menem, another cousin, said Carlos had been a popular visitor. "He used to wear jeans and light shirts and joined the children in playing football."

Asked what message he would send to his cousin, Khaled Menem said:

"Carlos, we are proud of you and we all love you. You told us with much confidence that you will visit us next time as a president. The day has come and we look forward to seeing you again."

COLUMN

Britain buzzing with Thatcher shock treatments

LONDON (R) — Britain was buzzing Friday with news reports that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher uses electric shock treatment to maintain her youth and vitality. The Sun newspaper gave Thatcher a new nickname, "the ion lady", and said the workaholic prime minister, 63, was a real "volt-getter." But the reports, based on an article in the U.S. magazine Vanity Fair, failed to jolt any reaction from Thatcher's office. "We've got no comment," a Downing Street spokesman said. The Daily Express said Thatcher received the treatment, involving a mild electrical charge while sitting in a special tub, from an Indian woman who practices ayur-veda, an ancient Indian therapy that uses oils, muds and baths. "The shocks are intended to recharge the nervous system and release blocked energy by underwater stimulation," the paper reported. Nigel Kahn, a spokesman for the Maharishi Ayur-Veda Association of Great Britain, was quoted as saying the treatment can take years off a patient's age.

Pizza owner helps runaways

LANSING, Michigan (AP) — Domino's Pizza owner Tom Monaghan is opening his pizzeria in Michigan to runaways in a programme he hopes will help troubled youngsters. "I really didn't have a home to run away from. It was certainly a period when I floundered a lot," said Monaghan, an orphan. "Just a few key pivotal points in my life could have gone one way or the other, and I believe this is probably a very pivotal point in these kids' lives when they walk into a safe place and get some professional attention." Monaghan announced Project Safe Place Tuesday. Under the guidelines, youngsters will be able to walk into any of the 195 Domino's stores displaying a Project Safe Place sign and ask for help. A store employee then will put the youngster in touch with a shelter or the statewide toll-free hotline for runaways.

200-million-year-old fossils found

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — About 30 fossilised dinosaur teeth found in New Mexico are estimated to be 220 million years old, meaning the creature was one of the first of its kind to inhabit the earth. Adrian Hunt, a doctoral candidate at the University of New Mexico, made the discoveries near Tucuman during four years of explorations for the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. He said the shape of the animal's teeth indicated it was one of the first dinosaurs on earth. He named the animal *Revetosaurus Cullenleri*, after the New Mexico museum's director, Jon Cullen. The first part of the name referred to a Spanish word for revolution, *revuelta*. The discoveries are discussed in a book published this week titled "Dawn of the Age of Dinosaurs in the American Southwest," edited by Hunt and museum paleontologist Spencer Lucas. Their theory is that *Revetosaurus* was the ancestor of all the plant-eating dinosaurs. It resembled a three-metre-long lizard with one-metre hind legs that permitted it to walk nearly upright. Lucas said it was the first new genus of dinosaur discovered in New Mexico since 1923 and the first new dinosaur species found in the state in nearly 30 years. The conclusions have yet to be reviewed by scientific peers. Found with the teeth were fossils of many early ancestors to mammals, turtles, crocodiles, flying reptiles and birds, several of which have yet to be identified, Hunt said.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	16	21	Clear
ATHENS	16	21	Clear
BAHRAIN	27	31	Clear
BANGKOK	27	31	Clear
BEIRUT	20	28	Clear
BUENOS AIRES	14	24	Cloudy
CHANGAI	22	28	Clear
CHONGKING	18	24	Clear
COPENHAGEN	15	22	Clear
FRANKFURT	14	22	Clear
GENEVA	10	20	Clear
HONG KONG	24	27	Clear
ISTANBUL	18	21	Clear
LOS ANGELES	17	25	Clear
LOS ANGELES	17	25	Clear
MADRID	14	21	Clear
MECCA	27	31	Clear
MOSCOW	16	21	Clear
MONTREAL	17	22	Clear
MOSCOW	16	21	Clear
NEW YORK	15	22	Clear
PARIS	17	22	Clear
ROME	18	25	Clear
TOKYO	17	22	Clear
VIENNA	14	22	Clear